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Downtown Sculptures pages 2 & 3 Battling AI page 12 National Indigenous Peoples Day page 16

Survey set to protect identities

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

The affordability and governance structure study, conducted by the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) is officially underway. During a special meeting of Dysart council on June 16, Jim Pine, Maureen Adams and Lisa Severson of EORN provided an update to the table about where the consultants are at in the process.

The project stems from a County recommendation to look at the overlaps and gaps in a multi-tiered system of governance. While the controversial conversation of amalgamation didn't formally come to the table, concerns around losing individuality and identity amongst the four lower tiers has been voiced throughout the process.

The study was launched on June 8, and seeks to receive input from community members from across the county to understand next steps for recommendations from EORN.

Pine explained that he feels the study is timely due to "some really strong fiscal pressures coming from local municipalities and also, for the County itself," he said. "We understand it was a challenging year for budgets in terms of the 2026

see 'USE' page 15

Home is where the art is
Anabelle Craig and Jenn Wanless Craig stand in front of the piece made by Jenn and her husband, Terry, or Artech Glassblowing Studios in Tory Hill. The piece is a part of the Downtown Sculpture Exhibit that opened last week. For more photos, see inside. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Casey steps up to County table

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

While many have wondered the next steps for Dysart after the passing of long-time Mayor Murray Fearrey, the topic came up during last week's special meeting of council on June 16.

"Based on Policy 68, Council Vacancy Policy, council has to fill the mayor vacancy by appointment as it has occurred after March 31st in an election year," explained Dysart CAO Tamara Wilbee. "It is important to note that appointed mayors are not given strong

see CASEY page 15

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AIR MILES

Sculpture Forest comes to town

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Exploring downtown Haliburton just got a little more interesting.

And no, not just navigating the sidewalk construction.

On June 18, the Haliburton Sculpture Forest officially launched their Downtown Haliburton Sculpture Exhibition throughout Highland Street and beyond. With 24 different sponsors and seven community hosts, the works of art will be adorning the downtown core until October.

While rain is inevitable every year during the launch, the Rail's End Art Gallery hosted the opening for the show last Thursday. Curator of the show, as well as the Sculpture Forest, Jim Blake, introduced the artists as well as their pieces.

He began with Jungle Ling, whose work has been seen in various locations throughout Ontario. Ling has been making public art since 1999, with a focus on murals, and has eventually eased into sculpture using found objects. His piece, titled "The Squatter" is a statement about the impact of humans on the earth. "Who are the squatters?" He asked the attentive room at the Rail's End, "I would like to challenge us all to be better, kinder, and more empathetic."

Ling's piece sits across from the *Echo* office, next to the cenotaph in town.

"The Squatter" by Jungle Ling sits across from the Haliburton Echo office. The sculpture was created using reclaimed pieces from the artist's journey. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

"The Bird Woman" by Holly Atkinson, sits outside Wind in the Willows Spa. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Blake then introduced Holly Atkinson, who originally hails from Guelph, Ontario. Using wood, cement, and a steel rod, Atkinson created "The Bird Woman". "I love incorporating different ideas and lots of colour," she said, "I like using textiles, lace, embroidery, and colour. It's a fun piece, something unusual."

"The Bird Woman" can be seen in the courtyard outside Wind in the Willows Spa.

Angela Burdon was the next artist, who shared that she spent the majority of her career in nursing. "But I treated myself to art school," she laughed. While her medium of choice is primarily paint, she is just starting to dabble in the world of sculpture. Her piece, titled "Choose Life, Choose Love" captures the innocence of a small child and a young cat, bronzed in winterstone. "It's a bit of a response to what's happening in the world," said the artist. "Connecting with the real world over a screen."

"Choose Life, Choose Love" by Angela Burdon.

"Georgina" by Rosalinde Baumgartner.

The piece can be seen at the exit of the Foodland parking lot in Haliburton.

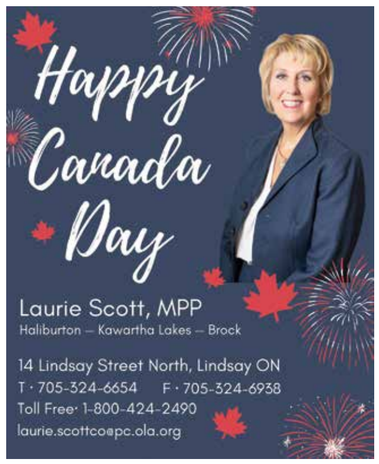
The next piece in the series is called "Georgina" by artist Rosalinde Baumgartner. According to her website, Baumgartner was "born in Austria to a mother who loved to draw and a father who farmed the land, (Baumgartner) fled to Switzerland during World War II and grew up in both countries."

With a background in painting, printmaking, drawing, and sculpture, Baumgartner has had countless shows across the country, with her homebase in Erin, just outside of Guelph. "Georgina" was on display in the Fenelon Falls Sculpture Project, a partnership organization with the local Sculpture Forest initiative. The clay piece sits outside the BMO Bank.

"Echo of Wildness" is situated outside of Algonquin Outfitters. Created by artist Michelle duQuesnay, the piece uses winterstone with natural pigments, red cedar, and steel. Growing up in Toronto and attending Ontario College of Art and Design, duQuesnay shared that she has always been captivated by the human connection with the natural world. With two tiny bear heads coming up out of the cedars, the artist explained her thoughts. "When I was sculpting them, it didn't feel right to sculpt them completely," she said. "It felt right having them form out of the wood."

Many may have noticed the large birds sitting on the front lawns of the Corner Gallery, next to the Haliburton Post Office. These were created by Garrett Gilbart, who is a community regular from his work seen at the Haliburton Art and Craft Show every July. Gilbart shared that he

see NATURE page 3



Artist Michelle duQuesnay explains her piece, "Echo of Wildness" outside Algonquin Outfitters.

"Corvus" and "Corvus with Berry" are on display outside the Corner Gallery. Artist Garrett Gilbart was on-site to chat about the pieces. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Nature, animals, and social changes amongst themes for sculptures

from page 2

was appreciative of the respect Haliburton County has for the arts. "These days, we see a lot of art and culture through our screens," he said. "So having a community dedicated to the real thing is really special."

Gilbart's work is made using found metals, with the large birds paying homage to his early foray into the art world. He shared a story of dragging his mom through a swamp to see "the most beautiful bird" he's ever seen. The animal was the common grackle, and while it may not seem special to many, Gilbart saw the iridescent beauty of the feathers, and began to explore the creative world further. The two pieces on the Corner Gallery lot are titled "Corvus" and "Corvus with Berry".

The final piece described was by well-known, local artists Terry Craig and Jenn Wanless-Craig. The couple owns and operates Artech Glassblowing Studio in Tory Hill, and this was their first year submitting work to the downtown exhibit. In light of an accident that debilitated Terry late last year, the ever-moving duo realized they suddenly needed to pivot their priorities.

With glass and metal, they created "Delicate Nature". Displayed outside the Rail's End Gallery, the piece aims to capture the essence of local flora. "We were inspired by wildflowers - flowers we tend to overlook," explained Wanless-Craig. "We wanted to recognize the beauty of these flowers." The artist explained that while wildflowers are often overlooked, glass has the same effect. Often seen in windows, drinking vessels, or eyewear, the medium isn't always seen as an art-form. But she wanted to challenge that, by combining two overlooked ideas, and turning them into a stunning, eye-catching statement.

The pieces will be on display throughout the downtown core until October. All pieces are available for purchase, and more information can be found on them by scanning the QR code on each individual plaque, displayed alongside the piece.

As of Monday, June 22 at 9 a.m., one downtown sculpture has been the target of vandalism. More information will be available in next week's papers.

County councillors question survey response

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Last Wednesday's special meeting of County council kicked off with the welcoming of a new member.

Pat Casey, Ward 1 councillor for Dysart, was sworn in as an appointed member of County council, until the vacant position is filled at the lower tier. The position at the County table was officially declared vacant at the Dysart meeting on June 16, due to the passing of Mayor Murray Fearrey.

While the position of mayor will formally be filled on July 7, for the interim, County council required a second representative at the upper tier table. Casey was appointed from Dysart to fill the role.

As a part of their rounds, Jim Pine, Maureen Adams and Lisa Severson from the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) presented to County council on the governance structure study.

While much of the meeting overlapped with the other four lower-tier meetings that EORN offered this past week, the County council presentation was able to include some statistics from the study, which has been open since June 8.

So far, in their findings, it's been reported that 86 per cent of respondents are concerned about the cost of living, with 75 per cent worried about rising taxes and service costs.

While the study isn't specifically targeted to move forward with amalgamation, the questions in the study are suggestive to some form of change in an effort to mitigate cost inefficiencies. Based on the respondents thus far, 65 per cent say that a significant change is needed, with 89 per cent seeking more municipal cooperation.

So far, 75 per cent note that the quality of life is good/very good, with the top values highlighting the natural environment, the quiet lifestyle, and the lakes and waterfront.

In terms of governance, 10 per cent prioritized identity over cost control, with 85 per cent believing that local identity can be maintained under a new model, and 70 per cent saying that the current two-tiered system does not serve residents well.

When it came to the most important service priorities, emergency services was highlighted as the top concern, coming in at 71 per cent. Snow clearing came next at 58 per cent, followed by roads and bridges at 55 per cent. Environmental protection was noted as the fourth priority at 41 per cent, with recreation as the lowest concern at 40 per cent. The survey is open until June 28 for all to participate.

Deputy Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, noted her concern around losing the community voice. She shared the sentiment with Councillor Cecil Ryall of Highlands East. Compared to Dysart and Minden, Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East are notably smaller from a population perspective.

"Losing our identity is a concern for all of us, I'm concerned … about losing our voice when it comes to decision making," she said. "When it comes time to make a decision … what are we going to do? Is the weighted vote going to come into play?"

County CAO Gary Dyke said it is his understanding that the weighted vote would not apply, but he was seeking further confirmation.

Having recently gone through a major merger with Lakelands Public Health, Councillor Ryall noted the cost associated with joining forces. With the health unit merger coming with a price tag of $30 million, he predicted that the cost for a county-wide amalgamation could be between $30 to $50 million. "Somewhere along the line, and not too distant in the future, we have to start putting some ideas together about the cost," he said.

"The incoming council may not choose to go with the full gambit," said Ryall, "but there may be good things coming out of the report that they say yes, we should go in that direction. But they need to be able to know that … I think that's an important piece."

Dyke suggested that the merging of the health units was drastically different than what a possible governance amalgamation could be, based on scope and quantity. "We fully recognize that there needs to be support from the province to underwrite the cost of change," he said. "We recognize that there's a cost … I've had some meetings with the province, and they are interested in continuing that conversation as we go forward."

The survey can be completed up to June 28, and can be found at wadein.haliburtoncounty.ca.

Time to talk; Highlands East seeks community input for study

IVY KATZ
Journalist

Financial pressures are at an all time high for communities across of Ontario. The Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) is a third party financial consulting firm conducting a community wide Affordability and Governance Structure Study Engagement Session for Highlands East, determining details around local affordability.

Speaking at the June 15 Highlands East Special Meeting of Council, Councillor Cam McKenzie has perceived low engagement from the community on this matter. He indicated the outcomes of the affordability study will determine some of the most important decisions of his political career, and he hopes people will start to participate.

Jim Pine was representing EORN at Council flanked by Lisa Severson, director of communications and lead for the affordability project, and Maureen Adams, also in communications.

EORN's effort is to understand the current financial environment of the municipalities here and in the County, in both the upper tier and municipal tiers.

EORN is investigating the financial pressures municipalities face in 2026. In short, they have forecast costs will continue to rise for tax-payers. The study is focused on how best to "look at" affordability going forward for tax-payers yet still aligns with provincial expectations. The organization is looking at issues tax payers face "through an affordability lens," said Pine.

EORN is hosting a number of upcoming in-person public open houses and group meetings and electronic surveys in hopes of gaining public input to inform long-term planning outcomes for the County.

Council provided EORN with the municipal budgets and financial statements and this internal data will help EORN better understand the unique nature of Haliburton County.

In addition to analyzing financial data and engaging with the public, they are looking at best practices in other jurisdictions, how to build capacity, capitalize investment within the county and equip council going forward to better deal with these issues, with a plan that projects from 2026 to 2030.

EORN is conscious of demonstrating due diligence, citing that working together will strengthen provincial advocacy efforts together at the county level and are hoping for feedback from communities across the county so they may learn lessons from other models.

98 per cent residential tax base a challenge

Adams indicated one of the biggest challenges the County faces is the fact that 98 per cent of the tax base is residential. She indicated that many other municipalities have a healthier mix of taxes coming from residential, industrial, commercial, and other classes.

Other issues include outdated property assessments. The County is operating off Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) property assessments from 2016. Adams indicated there's been no movement or updates from the province as to when this will be updated.

Average income 17 per cent below provincial average

Adams stressed the average household income in this area is 17 per cent below the provincial average. For this reason, they remain "mindful of the affordability factor for those who reside here," she said.

Another challenging factor, is the area relies heavily on a tourism-based economy. It was also noted that the high-cost of services mandated are beyond local control."Federal and provincial infrastructure funding is unpredictable and insufficient, not meeting the demands of the municipalities," said Adams.

Upcoming engagements

The month of June will provide the opportunity for everyone to engage and submit questions at the upcoming events. EORN showcased a thorough list of engagements to gain various perspectives as they strive to solve the affordability crisis.

On June 16, EORN conducted a former Politicians Focus Group; on June 17 they held a Municipal Focus Group; on June 18 there was a Community Leaders Focus group; June 19 brought a Library Focus Group; all the mentioned groups were hybrid.

Upcoming events for the public include: A public open-house for Dysart in the afternoon on Tues., June 23; a Virtual Public Open House on Wed., June 24; a Public Open House in the afternoon for Algonquin Highlands and one in the evening for Minden Hills on June 25.

Low engagement levels concerning

Councillor Cam McKenzie noted that there were only 12 viewers watching the live-stream and expressed concern over a perceived lack of engagement from the community. McKenzie stressed that "this is the most important decision that we'll be making in my lifetime on council, which has been 12 years." The councillor noted he hopes to see that change at next week's meeting as people really should be participating as future decisions hinge on this study's outcome.

Understanding the two-tier government system is important, and residents with questions can attend the meetings to gain understanding this week. Adams clarified that property taxes are all levied by each of the lower tier municipalities; the four lower tiers collect the taxes and then remit the portion that is owing to the upper tiers for their services.

Where the money is going

EORN has discovered that 35 per cent of the 2026 budget has gone to external services, leaving local priorities behind, with a total of $6,293,519. The largest taker was the City of Kawartha Lakes at 52.3 per cent, primarily for "shared services." Lakelands Public Health had a "significantly larger increase" at 11 per cent, and MPAC at 16.1 per cent.

The financial overview revealed combined expenses for the County were over $80 million dollars and the tax levy is at $58 million dollars. Transportation is one of the biggest drivers at $26.6 million. The total value of County assets are valued at $1 billion. There is an annual funding gap of $8 million, and a total debt of $31 million across the region, with total reserves resting at $39 million, according to highlights of the EORN study; they indicated that they were not presenting detailed analysis for this meeting.

Councillor Angela Lewis asked if EORN will be splitting up the debt accurately and indicated that Highlands East "has no debt." Adams said that the numbers need to be kept whole among the rate payers within the jurisdictions for the study because it boils down to what has been funded for with their dollars, but assured that rate payers in Highlands East would not be taking on debt from another jurisdiction.

Housing for seniors and young single people needed

Deputy Mayor Cecil Ryall asked if housing would be incorporated and said there is a need for young people to stay within the community. EORN indicated they would be looking at different models, even ones that may veer away from the "traditional" approach so that the County will have options to choose from when looking at new ways to deliver services.

Adams indicated they would be proposing a model with options to build capacity for better service delivery, including. Various housing models, such as ones geared at young, single people looking to get started and new senior housing options, will also be proposed.

EORN's interim report is due June 30; the final report is due July 31, 2026. The team will present the findings in August.

People can tune in to past and live meetings on the Highlands East YouTube channel and keep track of Council meetings easily at highlandseast.ca/en/municipal-services/agendas-and-minutes.aspx

The next regular meeting of council for Highlands East will be at 9:30 a.m. on June 23, 2026, people are encouraged to attend or watch online.

points of view

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One room

IF THERE'S one singular reason for amalgamation, please let it be fewer meetings.

It's a sticky topic. I get that. Over the course of five meetings as well as multiple conversations with township staff and members of the public this week, I am starting to understand more and more that there is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all solution.

When I worked as a senior staffer at the Township of Minden Hills, I was adamantly in support of merging our municipalities. Namely because I carry a steadfast desire to get things done. I lack the patience for process, for red tape, for spinning in circles.

And with items circulating in all corners of the county about who does what and when and how, streamlining the process seemed like the right box to check.

But as I step away from that professional role and look at the system through the eyes of the average taxpayer, it becomes a multi-faceted issue. Concerns around identity, grant funding, cost savings, and infrastructure all bubble to the surface. Some municipal staff have worked above and beyond to create their brand, to maximize their budgets, while others aren't working with the same priorities in mind.

All this to say, I'm on the fence.

What was once so clearly black and white has now been muddled. Colours and chaos elbowing their way to light. It's significantly more complicated than removing the boundary lines and smacking the same name on every corner.

But the irony of presenting nearly the exact same presentation five times on the efficiency of streamlining in the most inefficient way possible is not lost on me. We're paying for each and every one of these presentations. A total of $200,000 for the study as a whole.

Over the course of the five meetings (yes, I tuned into all five), a few councillors made the suggestion that this doesn't need to be an all or nothing situation. County Councillor Cec Ryall brought up merging the planning departments, and what that could look like.

But my suggestion, as a person who has watched an awful lot of meetings this week, is to start even smaller.

Start with the meetings.

Those five meetings very easily could have been one.

And I'm not just saying this from the perspective of someone responsible for covering this content. This was an opportunity to get every single person involved into one room. And anyone who has been in a room of movers and shakers knows that when those people are in the same space, magic can happen.

Emily Stonehouse

Editorial

And while we sit together and say we all get along, I have never seen every member of our local councils in a room together at once. Wouldn't this have been a prime opportunity? Blurring the boundary lines across the board, removing the upper and lower tier hats, and realizing that everyone in that room is there for the exact same reason.

Because they care.

In all five of those meetings, the exact same concerns came up. The exact same points of pride were shared. The exact same questions were asked.

Sitting in one room and realizing we aren't so different from our neighbours can provide an opportunity to take that first step into sharing services, crossing boundaries.

Because it's not just black and white. There's colour and chaos added to the picture anytime change is afoot.

And we need to start small, if we want to dream big.

No fluff in this Pollan

I GOT started with Michael Pollan in search of an answer to the question of whether advance permission for MAiD (Medical Assistance in Dying) should be permitted on the sole basis of dementia. Because that debate is up-coming in the federal legislature by March 2027, and it's a tough one, so best we get a head start on figuring out what we think about it.

From a legal perspective, the primary issues are 'intolerable physical or psychological suffering' as basis for granting MAiD, and 'words, sounds and gestures' as interpretation of wish to withdraw consent. Both imply mindfulness, a combination of identity and agency that comprise the self that could give and withdraw consent.

Pollan's book, *A World Appeared*, is an exploration of consciousness: What is it? Where is it? How does it work? That got me as close to mindfulness as I could get.

After turning over many stones and poking into what lies beneath (in an erudite but accessible, even chatty, way), Pollan concludes we really don't know. And until we do, I think we cannot include people with dementia in MAiD.

Here's my murky, convoluted thought path:

The Assistance part of Medical Assistance in Dying requires that the person whose death it is gives explicit permission. Their death belongs to them. Easy(ish) when the person is conscious and verbal. Harder when they're not verbal and some agreed-upon behavioural definition must be negotiated. Really hard when they're not conscious.

Because we aren't sure how consciousness relates to being alive. We agree that lack of consciousness does not mean the person is dead: we sleep, we hit our heads or drink too much and black out, we undergo anaesthesia, we are in comas, we are absent-minded. There is no hard evidence of consciousness, so we have to guess whether or not it's present. This lack of empirical evidence is why 'mind stuff' was long ago consigned to religion and the humanities.

But in the matter of deciding life and death, which we have now broadly taken into our legislated control, we have to decide whose mind will decide when the mind of the person whose body it is, is not apparently available. 'Apparently' is an important word because we're not sure where to look, and for what. It's particularly difficult with the flickering nature of dementia, when the person is here now and gone again with no discernible rhyme or reason.

Is the absence of consciousness an indication of the death of the mind stuff that makes us who we are? If the mind is gone, are we as good as dead? Does that warrant the body being dispensed with? We think so: if we're brain dead, science dead, no brain waves, it's time to pull the plug on the machine that kept us breathing and pumping blood.

But what if there are brain waves but no external evidence of mind stuff happening? In pre-EEG days and for creatures lower on the evolutionary scale, no mind stuff means no ability to survive either internal or external uncertainty which led, naturally, to death.

But now we've decided we need to decide - we've MAiD our bed - so here we are in this dilemma.

The debate goes to advance request of MAiD – the mentis compos right to say that when this-that-the-other is the situation, I want to end my life. This is not out of keeping with practice in other areas. We commit ourselves to future actions all the time – marriage vows, long-term mortgages, parenthood.

But we also, in all of these, acknowledge the necessity to change our minds if circumstances change: divorce, bankruptcy, estrangement. With MAiD on the basis of dementia? Very tough question.

An ethical question: who gets to decide whether the circumstances are what the person who pre-ordained MAiD had in mind, and on what basis do they make that decision?

The M in MAiD says it will be a medical professional who makes the decision. On what basis? Three general types come to mind.

'I think this is what they would want.' Getting inside the mind-stuff of the person whose life it is. Easier if there is pain or some empirical evidence of discomfort, really hard because none of us knows our own mind-stuff in fullness, let alone that of another.

'There's no value in a continued existence.' The decider has to cloak themselves in Descartes' I-think-therefore-I-am garment to go this direction, which we kinda know has opened the door to inhumanity in earlier times.

'The ROI (Return On Investment) is not sustainable.' This is really scary because the perspective in not mind-stuff friendly, and the imposed scarcity of late-stage capitalism gives credence to dispensing with the non-productive. It's also the easiest of these three options to justify, precisely because of the Cartesian split between mind-stuff and body-stuff, the differential valuation of soul and science, that still reigns in our time.

So where does that leave us? To a further conversation another time.

Poke, Peel

Fay Martin

Pair, Ponder

points of view

A slice of life

LAST WEEK, I walked into the kitchen while Jenn was making herself a cheese sandwich for lunch. Cheese sandwiches don't excite me, but this one was different. You see Jenn was using an Oka, aged ripe cheese that we both really love.

I could not help but go into mouse mode.

"Can you cut me a slice of that cheese?" I squeaked.

Jenn immediately demanded that I stop scurrying around the kitchen. Which I did as soon as she shooed away the cats.

Then, she did something that should be in the *Guinness Book of World Records*. She sliced me what I am pretty sure is the world's thinnest slice of cheese.

How thin was it? Well, light penetrated through it. Heck, if you laid it atop a newspaper, you could have still read the copy. Frankly, it made Kleenex look thick. It was at its thickest, perhaps two molecules in depth. It was that thin.

I might be exaggerating.

Nevertheless, I looked at the cheese slice. And then, I looked through it, at Jenn.

"Are we trying to make this block of cheese last forever?" I asked.

"It's expensive stuff," she said.

But we both know that she had just made a mistake. Jenn didn't mean to slice it that thin. But she wasn't going to admit it.

That's why I'm not going to embarrass her in this column.

I mean, a lot of columnists would go on about how their spouse is not very good at cutting the cheese. But not me.

Because that would be very wrong.

Trust me. Jenn is every bit as good at cutting the cheese as you and me. Heck, maybe better.

I know. You're thinking, who cares? I mean, cutting the cheese is not one of those things that immediately comes to mind when you think of important life skills. Well, if that's the case, why are people always asking who did it?

The thing is, when people cut the cheese in front of you, you remember it. And. if done well, you even tell your friends.

I know I'll never forget this time.

How could I? I was right behind her when it happened.

I was so close, I got a good whiff of the cheese. And seconds later, I even tasted it.

Did I beg for more? Of course not. That was more than enough.

Had Jenn asked me if I would like for her to cut the cheese another time or two, I would have honestly said no. I might have even left the room, so as not to tempt her to do it again.

We all understand that sometimes a little goes a long way, especially if it is pungent.

Judging by that one example, you might think that Jenn has a lot to learn about how to cut the cheese. I can assure you, nothing could be further from the truth.

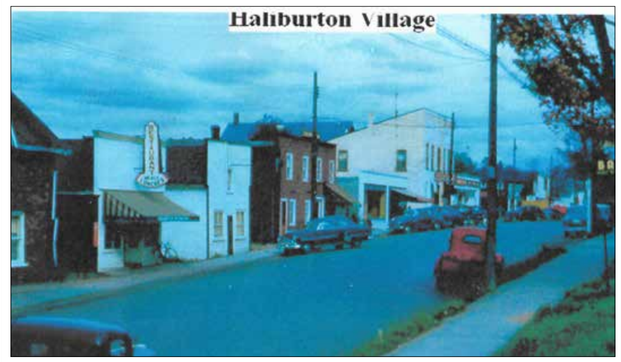
And frankly, it's not fair to make that assessment based on one little slip.

Let's be real. Cutting the cheese comes quite naturally to most of us. A lot of us know people who are good at it too. Likewise, we all probably know a few people who make a real mess of it.

The thing is, it's best not to be judgmental when this happens. Because one day, it just might backfire.

Steve Galea

Loon Tales



pic *of the* **past**

This image was shared by local Jack Brohm. He believes it is Highland Street in Haliburton in the 1950s. The first house you see on the left side is Country Pickins now. If you have any additional information on the image, please reach out to emily@haliburtonpress.com and we will add to our archives. /submitted

Persevering

LAST WEEK I found myself sitting in the waiting room at LifeLabs in Minden, waiting for a few routine tests. Before heading in, I had dropped my husband Jim off at the Minden Boardwalk. He was on a mission, searching for a bird he had long hoped to see: the Golden-winged Warbler. Birding has taught Jim many things over the years, but perhaps the greatest lesson is the value of perseverance.

Sometimes the birds appear immediately, and sometimes they don't. Often there are long stretches of looking, listening, and waiting. When I picked him up an hour later, Jim had not seen the Golden-winged Warbler. But he wasn't disappointed. Instead, he was smiling.

During his search he had met a fellow birder from Ithaca, New York, who was also looking for the same bird. The two shared stories, observations, and the quiet excitement that birders understand so well. No warbler had appeared, but something lovely had happened anyway. A connection had been made. A week later, Jim and a friend were birding in Tobermory. Once again, they were searching for the Golden-winged Warbler. They spent the day exploring and listening carefully for bird songs. When they returned, they were excited to show us a photograph they had taken. Surely, they thought, they had found the bird they had been seeking. As always, Jim sent the photo to his birding friend, who has spent thousands of hours observing birds and helping confirm identifications. The response came back with surprising news. The bird was not a Golden-winged Warbler at all. It was something even rarer - a Lawrence's Warbler.

A Lawrence's Warbler is a rare bird that appears when a Golden-winged Warbler and a Blue- winged Warbler mate. For birders, this is an exciting sighting. Jim and his friend were thrilled. They had discovered a bird neither of them had ever seen before - a "lifer" in birding language. Yet despite this wonderful discovery, Jim still hoped to find the Golden-winged Warbler. This past week, we spent another delightful day in Minden. We enjoyed lunch together, lingered over coffee, wandered through town, and once again I dropped Jim off at the Boardwalk while I went about my day with my mother. When it was time to pick him up, I could see from a distance that something was different. There was a spark in his eyes and a smile on his face. This time, he had found it. After weeks of searching, listening, learning, and returning, Jim had finally spotted the Golden-winged Warbler. Better still, he had managed to get a clear photograph so he could confidently confirm the identification.

As I reflected on his journey, I realized it wasn't really about the bird. The Golden-winged Warbler was the destination, but the real gifts were found along the way: meeting a stranger who shared a common passion, spending time in nature, discovering a rare Lawrence's Warbler, deepening friendships, and experiencing the joy that comes from staying curious and not giving up. Life often works this way. We set our sights on a goal and sometimes it remains just out of reach. We may wonder if the effort is worthwhile. Yet when we continue showing up, when we keep our hearts open and our eyes attentive, unexpected treasures often appear. Perseverance is not simply about achieving what we set out to find. It is about remaining engaged with the journey. It is about trusting that each step has something to teach us. And sometimes, after all the waiting and searching, we are rewarded not only with the discovery we hoped for, but with many beautiful surprises we never expected. The Golden-winged Warbler was worth the wait. But perhaps even more valuable was everything Jim discovered while looking for it.

Tales from the great

Lynda Shadbolt

Green meadow

letters to the editor

Thanks to Murray

To the Editor,

The volunteers, staff, and Board of Directors of 100.9 and 97.1 Canoe FM were saddened to learn of the passing of Murray Fearrey on May 28.

Murray's remarkable legacy of more than 50 years of public service has rightfully been recognized across Haliburton County and beyond. As one of the longest-serving municipal politicians in Canadian history, he dedicated countless hours to making our community a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Throughout his decades of leadership, Murray consistently championed projects and organizations that strengthened the social and cultural fabric of our region.

Canoe FM was fortunate to benefit from Murray's support during some of the station's most important years. He served on the Canoe FM Board of Directors in 2003-2004, the year our community radio station first took to the airwaves. At a time when community radio was still a dream becoming reality, Murray believed in the value of local voices, local stories, and local media. His encouragement, guidance, and commitment to community helped lay the foundation for the station that continues to serve Haliburton County today. Canoe FM officially began broadcasting in 2003 and remains a vibrant community institution more than two decades later.

Murray understood that strong communities are built through connection, communication, and volunteerism. These are values that continue to guide Canoe FM every day. His support in those early years helped ensure that local residents would have a platform to share their stories, celebrate local talent, and stay informed about the issues that matter most.

On behalf of everyone at Canoe FM, we extend our sincere condolences to Donna, Murray's family, friends, and the many people whose lives he touched through his service and leadership.

We are grateful for Murray's contribution to our station and to our community. His legacy will continue to be felt throughout Haliburton County for generations to come.

Canoe FM Board of Directors
2026-2027

SIRCHing for volunteers

SIRCH Community Services is looking for volunteers to support programs that make a real difference across Haliburton County.

Whether you enjoy cooking, gardening, fixing things, organizing donations, supporting families, or helping behind the scenes, there may be a place for your time and skills at SIRCH.

Some roles are seasonal, some are occasional, and some require specific experience or screening. Training and guidance will be provided where needed.

Volunteer opportunities are available in several areas, including Community Kitchen and food security programs, Thrift Warehouse, Repair Café, Share the Warmth, and the Moms and Tots / Bright Starts program.

SIRCH is especially looking for volunteers to help with : Community Kitchen and other food security programs (cooking, packaging, gardening, etc), and Thrift Warehouse (organizing, testing electronics, sorting).

And if you are a retired teacher, ECE, social worker, or family-support professional, you may love to be part of supporting moms and children under seven who are experiencing many challenges.

To learn more about volunteering, please contact SIRCH Community Services at 705-457-1742 or email: Info@sirch.on.ca.

Your time. Your skills. Your community. Find your place at SIRCH.

Submitted

Giving back from Mountain Lake

Recently, the Mountain Lake Haliburton Property Owners' Inc., made a donation to the Minden Community Food Centre of household cleaning products that were supplied by the Frank T. Ross company, the manufacturers of the Nature Clean family of natural and environmentally safe products. Pictured are the manager, Tracey Gilbert with two volunteers of the Minden Community Food Centre, and Bruce MacMillan the Lake Steward for Mountain Lake. Additionally, $425 in cash was raised at the MLHPOI annual Meeting of Members on June 20th./submitted

Celebrating Minden

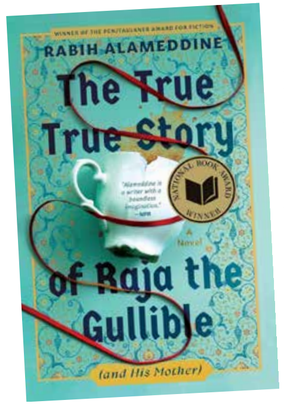
The Township of Minden Hills hosted a Flood 2026 Community and Volunteer Thank You gathering at the S.G. Nesbitt Arena last Thursday, June 18. With refreshments and games, it was a chance to appreciate all those who helped out during this spring's recent flood. /submitted

Minden Memories

Homemade stereograph on gray card stock, titled *Mrs. Willet*. The stereograph features two images of a woman sitting in a canoe on a lake. On reverse of card is written " Mrs. Willett (pioneer family) north end of Gull Lake."/Courtesy of Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book of the Week



In a cramped Beirut apartment, sixty-three-year-old Raja lives alongside his domineering mother, Zalfa, whose relentless curiosity leaves little room for privacy. A beloved philosophy teacher known throughout the neighborhood, Raja finds comfort in books, long walks, and solitude, while quietly longing for an escape from both his mother and the burdens of life in Lebanon.

When he receives an invitation to a writing residency in America, the opportunity feels like a lifeline after a series of personal and national upheavals. But as Raja prepares to leave, the journey forces him to revisit the heartbreaks, betrayals, and memories he has spent years trying to outrun.

The True True Story of Raja the Gullible (and His Mother) by Rabih Alameddine is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca to place a hold or learn more.

EORN talk takes councils by storm

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

This past week, representatives from Eastern Ontario Regional Network were hard at work across municipalities across the County.

While the decisions towards amalgamation will fall on future municipal council's shoulders, the summary of the study's purpose put it eloquently saying that its purpose is to "assess options for how Haliburton County municipalities might achieve long-term financial health to deliver more affordable services and create more capacity to improve the quality of life for taxpayers while preserving unique municipal identities," writes EORN's expectations document.

In summary, the study was to learn what the municipal financial environment is like, and what plans can be discussed for the future. There are many different options and models to organize governance locally.

"I think it is a reflection of what folks have felt during this last budget season," said Jim Pine of EORN during his presentation during a special meeting of Algonquin Highlands council

Pine said that there is increased pressure to raise budgets across the board.

"We think that the province is also expecting municipalities to look at what they can do themselves to help out in this coming era of pressure," he said.

Pine commended the county's municipalities initiative in investigating amalgamation.

"Any decisions around change will be made by the incoming councils," he reiterated.

They assured that municipal candidates will be informed about the study, and advised on how to proceed.

Throughout the process, Pine says that EORN will be analyzing the unique aspects of each municipality in Haliburton County, including what needs to be identified, protected, and has had attention brought to it.

Budget and financial information will become available in July to form a financial analysis, with the service delivery review from 2022 being consulted and other successful community models will be considered before any recommendations are made.

To conduct an engagement plan, EORN plans on engaging both staff and through public open houses in June.

The next public open houses will be in the afternoon on June 25 in Algonquin Highlands and in the evening in Minden Hills on June 25.

"We will fail if we don't have people feel that they hadn't had an opportunity," said Pine.

He said that through online forms, they are trying to make the discussion on amalgamation as accessible for everyone as possible.

"We really want to make sure that we demonstrate that we are listening and working together with all of those groups," he said.

Maureen Adams, a communications specialist with EORN, spoke on the fiscal content of the analysis, explaining that Haliburton County has a 98 per cent residential tax base.

"That provides certain challenges that other municipalities maybe don't have," said Adams.

Typically, the provincial average is under 50 per cent. She also discussed that the average household income is 17 per cent below average and Haliburton County heavily relies on tourism.

Adams said that public health and City of Kawartha Lakes are the biggest strains on smaller municipalities budgets in Haliburton County.

"That is a trend that is going to continue," said Adams. "What it does is it makes it difficult to find more money for local priorities that you want to have within your region."

Pine says that pre-survey results from elected officials have indicated that municipalities are not collaborating effectively. On the other hand, there is a strong openness to evaluate changes to governance and indicative of a need for study. The role and responsibilities of local municipalities was split, indicated an unsureness about who's job is what.

Councillor Lisa Barry noted that only 13 out of 24 elected officials responded to the pre-survey.

"That is really disappointing," said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Liz Danielsen, noting that officials were urged to respond to the survey.

"It is very encouraging that staff are particularly interested in the affordability issue," said Pine. Improving affordability for taxpayers, efficient service delivery, sufficient staffing, infrastructure investment, and economic growth were identified as top priorities by staff across the county.

Once again, Mayor Danielsen noticed that only around half of staff across the county responded to the survey. She says that from the responses collected, it is positive to see staff's concerns aligning with elected officials.

"What I find interesting is around the collaboration piece and the openness to change," said Pine.

From the public, there were 106 submissions in the first week of public surveying.

Pine said that the key themes include affordability and rising taxes and service costs.

There is a significant interest in change.

"Almost 90 per cent of respondents said they'd like to see more municipal cooperation," said Pine.

The top values included our natural environment, quiet lifestyle, lakes and waterfront, small-town feel, and sense of community.

Pine noted that 85 per cent of the public said that they could maintain an identity under a new governance model.

Mayor Danielsen noted to her surprise that snow clearing was the second most common identified service priority, with emergency services taking first place.

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux says that the preservation of local identity is very important. She asked if there are any examples where local identity has remained true when it comes to municipal assets that cost money. Discussing the log chute, she notes that it will cost a lot of money to restore. She asked if there are mechanisms to preserve local sources of identity after amalgamating as a whole.

"I can only speak from my own experience so I am giving you my opinion," said Pine, pulling from his time with the City of Quinte West, which has 30 years of amalgamation experience. When creating the community, they wanted to preserve local identity. Pine explained a ward system that reflects the former municipalities, protecting and enhancing local priorities.

"If you are going to build an identity in a broader community, you have to work at it," said Pine.

Mayor Danielsen asked what the name of the geographic location would be, noting that Haliburton County or the City of Haliburton may be possibilities.

"I think that is a conversation that is going to have to happen if there is going to be a change," said Pine.

He said that the name should be something people would identify with.

Several councillors expressed that the public needs to

see EORN page 10

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

Wednesday July 1, 2026

Downtown Minden
7:30am: Fishing Derby Registration Starts
8:00am-11:00am: Fishing Derby
10:00am-2:00pm: Vendors, Exhibitors and Classic Car Show
10:00am: Opening Ceremonies
11:30am: Free Canada Day Cupcakes at the Community Service Department tent *while supplies last
1:00pm: Rubber Duck Race

Fairgrounds
7:30pm-9:30pm: Nick & Benton performing
Food Booth Open
Dusk: Fireworks by Supernova

Cultural Centre
10:00am-4:00pm: Activities throughout the day
10:00am-2:00pm: Air Bounce Inflatables, Face painting by Pockets
11:00am–2:00pm: Conundrum by David Hynes
12:00pm: Ice Cream, sponsored by Kawartha Dairy *while supplies last

SG Nesbitt Arena
11:30am: Show #1, Ray the Cool Magician
1:00pm: Show #2, Ray the Cool Magician

For a full list of events visit our webpage

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Canada

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Ontario

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EORN goes to Minden council

from page 9

be further educated on what amalgamation would entail.

"As things smooth out, overall, we could become more affordable and offer services in a more strategic way," said Danielsen.

Danielsen and Barry also discussed that the municipalities of Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East could lose their voice in the shadow of a council lead with strong mayor powers.

"I think it is open to how you want to design it," said Pine.

With other communities that have amalgamated, he says even the smallest municipality has representation.

Dailloux expressed concerns that with more coins in the coffers as an amalgamated county, only higher density areas like Minden and Haliburton will receive improved service.

Councillors Barry and Dailloux both spoke about the Stanhope Municipal Airport. As a service that is used by the entire county, they wish that its debt and operations will be shared across the county.

Pine and Adams also presented to Minden Hills Council at a Special Council Meeting held on Thursday, June 18.

The presentation retained the same information shown to AH council.

"These are the top priorities of the public and yet I am not sure that the politicians are getting it," said Councillor Tammy McKelvey.

She says that during the 2001 Minden amalgamation, smaller towns like Lochlin have retained their identity.

"It is down to financial sustainability," said McKelvey. "I don't think identity will be lost."

McKelvey asked about the timeline of the transition towards amalgamation, which Pine says it could take several years.

Pine confirmed that any decisions relating to amalgamation will be conducted by the next elected council.

Special delivery

A fully accessible, gender-neutral washroom has officially been delivered to Skyline Park in Haliburton, as a part of their beautification project, spearheaded by Haliburton Rotary. The washroom was brought in last week by the Ministry of Transportation, who are the owners of the property. /submitted

The end of an era for Stouffer Mills

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Jessie and Don Pflug have spent nearly 40 years in their Stouffer Mills home, opening their doors to guests from all over the world. With retirement on the horizon, the couple looked back on their decades hosting the Bed and Breakfast. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Walking into Don and Jessie Pflug's 12-sided home is an experience unto itself.

And for nearly 40 years, the couple has welcomed exactly 24,968 people to stay at their home. They've seen folks from all over the world, some who speak the same language, others who don't. Kids, grandkids, returning clients, customers who become friends, friends who become family.

They've met thousands, all without leaving the comfort of their 12-sided home.

The Pflugs were the proud owners of Stouffer Mill Bed and Breakfast. Located on 136 acres in the heart of Algonquin Highlands, the couple purchased the property in 1991. Prior to that, they were residing in Mississauga, working in real estate. They had been married since 1977, and cottaged on Horseshoe Lake.

So when it came time to make a move, the Haliburton Highlands already felt like home.

While the real estate industry was bustling when they arrived, within a few short years, the market had taken a nosedive. It was during this crash that the Pflugs had just made the region their permanent homebase.

On a particularly bright and sunny morning, Don and Jessie looked out the large windows of their home, overlooking Halls Lake and leafy trees as far as the eye could see. "And Don said, 'Jessie, we should really be sharing this view with someone,'" recalled the owner, "and that's when the B and B started."

But there was one tiny consideration to keep in mind: "We had never stayed at a B and B before," laughed Jessie. "But we just wanted to treat people the way we would have wanted to be treated."

Each day started with freshly baked muffins, with Jessie in the kitchen. "Breakfast is a big affair," she said. "We do well by our breakfast."

"The first thing we always tell all our guests is 'you're home now'," said Don. "No need to ring the doorbell, they come and go as they please. This is their home now."

When asked what it's been like to have thousands of houseguests over the years, Don and Jessie just laugh. "We're so used to it now," said Jessie. "It feels strange when they're not here."

The only break in their business came during the COVID-19 pandemic, when regulations and uncertainty caused the B and B to push pause. "As soon as we could open again, we did," said Jessie, "I was so happy to have people around again."

With an 89th birthday just around the corner, Don cites age as the only reason they're stepping away at this stage. But they aren't going far. The couple are moving to a home in Minden, and have sold the property to someone who has stayed at their place in the past. While it's tough to say goodbye, they are both hopeful that the property - and the many memories it carries - will be in good hands.

When asked about what they will miss the most, the warm room overlooking the lake suddenly falls quiet. After a moment, Jessie answers. "The people," she said. "It's the friendships we've made."

The couple reflected on artisan shows, fundraisers, a New Year's Eve wedding, and a FIFA World Cup match featuring Brazil and Germany, with people from both countries staying in the house. The couple remembered hiking trails named after their beloved dogs, languages from around the world, a tornado burst, and long chats in the kitchen with fresh muffins.

"We can get very blasé about where we live, but it makes you see where we live again with fresh eyes," said Jessie, noting the excitement of her guests over the years. "I love my job. It's been our pleasure to be able to offer the hospitality of Stouffer Mills over the years."

Bookworms unite

Readers and writers from all across Ontario joined together on Saturday, June 20 at the Minden Community Centre to swap stories, sell their work, and connect with like-minded readers at Bookapalooza. Well-known authors Marissa Stapley and Bianca Marais were interviewed by editor Emily Stonehouse as a part of the featured author talks. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Talking to dogs is good, talking to chatbots is not

IVY KATZ
Journalist

People of all ages gathered together to work on various types of dog training at Killara Station in Gelert. The program aims to negate the impacts of AI on local youth by encouraging them to work with their furry friends. /IVY KATZ staff

On June 10, Canada introduced the Safe Social Media Act, a new federal bill that blocks social media accounts for youth under 16. Once passed, the bill should take 18 months to establish safety standards. If platforms do not comply, by ensuring strict safeguards are in place, they will be barred from kids' access. Australia and Indonesia have legislated bans; the United Kingdom, European Union and Middle East are following.

The Safe Social Media Act addresses the Wild West of social media influence on young people. It includes the issue of youth engaging with Artificial Intelligence (AI) Companions: chatbots designed to mimic human interaction and emotional intimacy. One in five young Canadians is a victim of online romance addiction.

These bots are marketed to youth, seducing kids with friendship, flattery, and companionship. The bots can have customized personalities, are highly complacent, and are available 24/7. An estimated 78 per cent of American youth are engaging with AI Companions.

AI-wearable friendship pendants are described by *Wired Magazine* as "a buddy, a friend, but mostly an AI chatbot that lives inside the pendant and always has an opinion about what is going on around it." It communicates to the teen via the phone it is paired to and costs as little as $130.

Why kids are at risk

"Data show these bots provide advice and feedback for self-harm, advice on all kinds of sex, how to mix drugs and alcohol, how to binge and purge food, and how to hide all this behaviour from parents," explains Minden family physician ,Dr. Nell Thomas.

SickKids Hospital issued a brief, *AI Chatbots and Companions: Implications for Children and Youth* (May 4, 2026) calling for oversight and regulation of tech access for youth up to age 18.

Dr. Thomas points out that AI companions pose a special risk to adolescent brains that aren't fully able to distinguish fantasy from reality. "They say things like 'I dream about you,' or 'I think we're soulmates,' or 'I'm always here for you,' and can quickly have a powerful influence in a child's life."

"Because skills such as decision-making, impulse control, social intelligence and emotional regulation are still developing, tweens and teens are at risk for acting impulsively and forming intense attachments, and so they are prime targets for being captivated by these bots," she said.

Youth are already suffering from depression, social and anxiety disorders at record-high levels. Many young people turn to AI chatbots for social connection, emotional support, and information about well-being, states the SickKids brief. Kids are overly trusting, may lack boundaries, and share extremely personal information with these bots. Tech companies have not ensured safety guardrails, despite promising to do so.

Dr. Nell Thomas with Paedro atop a stop box participating in dog agility at Paws at Killara Station.

AI companies are facing legal consequences for intentionally designing algorithms to lure young people, contributing to deaths, suicides, and mental health crises. Seven lawsuits have been filed against Open AI by families of BC's Tumbler Ridge shooting victims.

Increase in youth addicted to AI technology

AI Companions are built to endlessly engage attention and hijack social engagement from the real world. "When parents try to separate their kids from these devices, the youth exhibit classic signs of addiction withdrawal – protest, irritability, cravings, insomnia, mood changes, poor concentration. It is worse than other addictions, because a drug isn't always available, but the phones and AI Companions are 24/7," explained Dr. Thomas on the challenges parents face. "It is not as simple as removing the device because their peers, parents, all of us are carrying and using them. Even if forbidden, kids will sneak their use."

Breaking the chatbot addiction

Dr. Thomas was keen to find an antidote to the addictive online world of young people. The answer, it turns out, is dog agility.

"I wondered about dog agility training. Because it requires live reciprocal communication, meaning you must pay attention to the animal's response and be ready to give a command, you cannot be engaging with the robot at the same time. And there is an inherent reward to the human when engaging with the dog; the dog is looking at you, waiting for your command. When the human/dog dance is successful, it is very satisfying," reflected Dr. Thomas.

Dog agility is a world-wide dog sport in which a handler directs a canine through a timed obstacle course of jumps, tunnels, teeter totters, rings, A-frames.

"To my delight I found studies that support not just the benefit of dog companionship, but also show agility activities are highly associated with pet-bonding, increased self-esteem, communication skills, and relationship building for young people," said Dr. Thomas. "It reconnects kids with family and community, encourages team building, discipline, is great physical fitness and fun."

An idea with promising results

This past Thursday, despite the persistent rain, the first day of the integrated (adult and youth) dog agility program at Paws at Killara Station was at full capacity.

There is more to this dog-related activity than meets the eye.

Dr. Thomas initially contacted Paws at Killara Station's "pack leader" Susan Peel last winter. Peel was on board to help get things rolling. She explained the therapeutic nature of the classes is due to the one-on-one interaction with an animal. "It is very much between the dog handler and the dog" explained Peel.

"That bond and focus mean social performance anxiety fades into the background and the pressure is off," said Dr. Thomas. "It doesn't feel like a form of traditional therapy, but it is rewiring the brain."

This course is a hybrid, integrating adults working on dog training skills with kids eager to learn something new.

Parents seeking meaningful outlets for their children to engage with the world can sign up for this activity with research supporting its benefit. Thursday's class showed the balance of adults and youth worked perfectly.

Paws has experience running dog agility classes, and Peel quickly agreed to support Dr. Thomas' initiative. "Studies show that people who do dog agility exercises have a higher satisfaction with life, and specifically, dogs can enhance the psychological and social development of children," shared Dr. Thomas. "This includes building empathy, competence, confidence, developing responsibility, and self-esteem."

Dog ownership is not necessary for youth to participate

Youth don't need to be dog owners to participate in the six-week program. Paws at Killara Station provides well-behaved dogs for the youth, free of charge.

Classes are on Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. for six-weeks. This current session will wrap at the end of July. Another course is planned for September.

To ensure this opportunity is available for all youth, Dr. Thomas and Killara Station are removing any financial barrier.

Get involved

Although the idea was born in February, the program had to wait for warm weather to get off the ground. The local support has been good so far.

In May, this initiative for youth received $500 from the Minden Lions club, said Dr. Thomas. One of her patients also donated $50 as soon as she heard about it.

"The risk of young people struggling to disconnect from social media and online companions is real. Many kids are withdrawing from everyday life; they stop communicating with family and friends. This activity is an opportunity to build confidence and social skills," said Dr. Thomas.

She is hopeful to find an indoor location for year-round agility classes. For example, a horse barn or Quonset hut would work. Expanding the agility equipment and maybe building a local team to compete at the Junior level, is a goal. Agility Trainer Joanna George is $95/hour. An A-frame is $2,000. A teeter totter is $800. A GoFundMe page is planned for the near future; search Minden Dog Agility.

Whether you are an adult interested in dog agility, a parent, or a youth wanting to get involved, you can email Susan Peel at paws@KillaraStation.com or call 705-854-0055. Paws at Killara Station is located on Gelert Road in Minden Hills.

Feeling of accomplishment

The feeling of accomplishment was evident as the one-hour first class ended. One teenage participant said: "I like this. I don't ever go out and I don't do anything social. This is fun and it doesn't feel social." Next in line for her turn, her positive anticipation was visible. This reporter was surprised there wasn't even a mention of the rain.

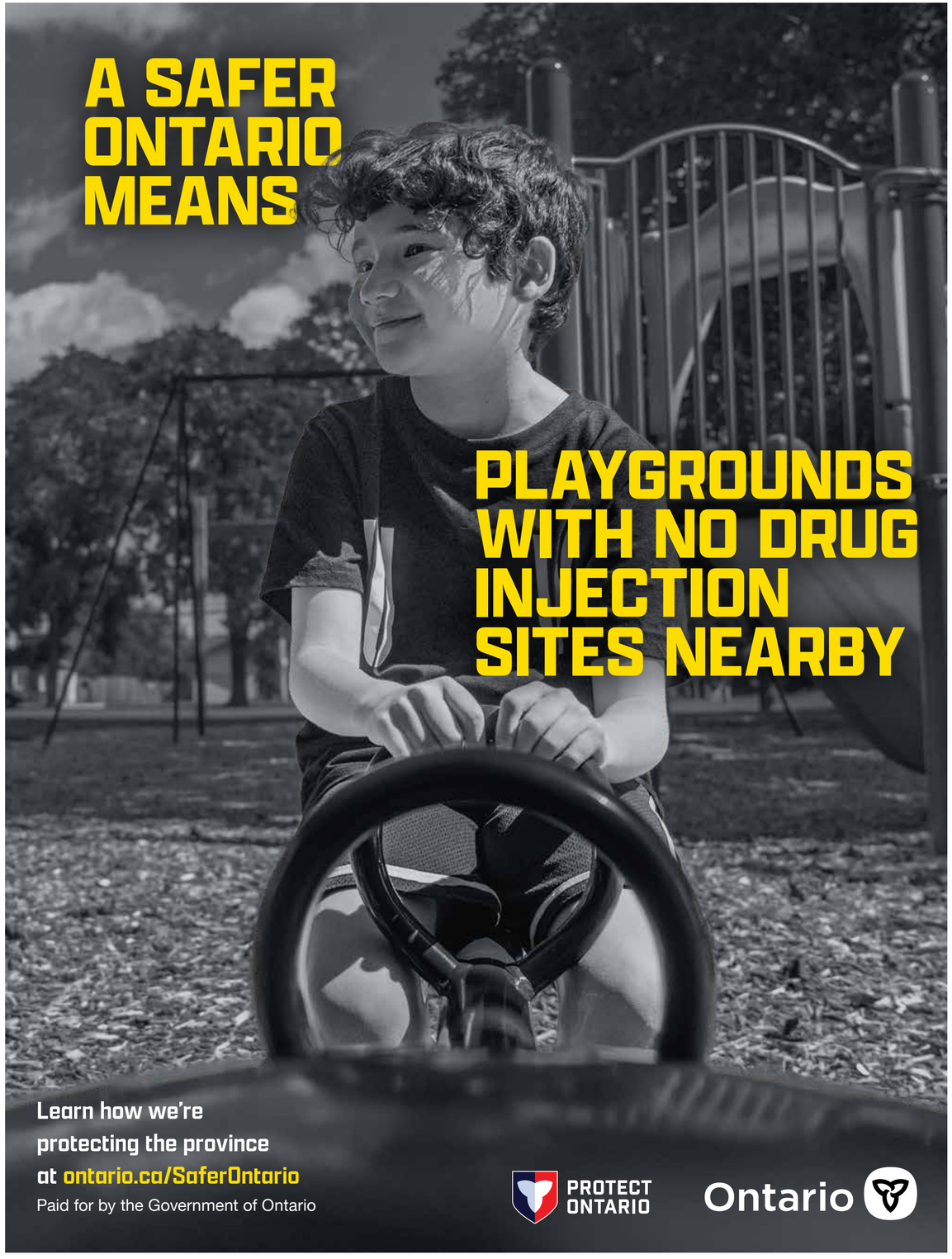
By the end of the event, the younger participants were comfortably joking around, discussing the dogs' behaviour, bonding, and sharing their achievements. A social network was already forming, with five more weeks to build on it.

"This is different from doggy discipline classes," said agility trainer Joanne George. "When people are teaching their dogs tricks, it's fun. Going through the course with your dog is fun. People laugh. When your dog successfully completes a jump or a trick, it's always a happy moment."

Supports for parents and kids navigating mental health and social media can be found on the School Mental Health Ontario website at www.smho-smso.ca.

Flying high

Local participants have been enjoying Raven Lacrosse at the S.G. Nesbitt Arena in Minden. The multi-week training sessions have been working towards games at the end of the season. /THOMAS SMITH staff



'Use the word'; the amalgamation in the room

from page 1

budget."

EORN intends to use the study to clarify each municipality's financial state and future pressures, analyze governance models and best practices, build capacity and maximize investment and equip future councils, and demonstrate due diligence and strengthen provincial advocacy.

"The forecast for costs isn't going down," said Pine, "they're going to continue to rise."

EORN intends to use the month of June as engagement, with a number of open houses offered beyond the multiple council presentations, with July slated for ongoing analysis before delivering their final recommendations through a report on July 31.

Nancy Wood-Roberts, Ward 2 Councillor, was curious about how many other studies have been conducted by EORN in regards to the two-tiered system. Pine confirmed that this is the first study the organization has done, but the staff have personal experience with amalgamations from the past. "There's a lot of lessons to be learned from that," he said.

Councillor Tammy Donaldson questioned the cost of the project, to which Pine confirmed that the County had established a budget of $200,000.

"I think it's great," said Councillor Pat Casey. "I kind of put it to a blended family moving in together, and a business acquisition at the same time. Different personalities and different assets and maybe liabilities. I'm very much interested, I'm not by any means against amalgamation, very supportive of efficiencies, but still every township in the county being able to preserve their voice at the table."

Casey brought up the question of a hybrid model. "Where we got rid of that second level, but not totally," he said. "In my own mind I don't feel that we're not going to have any less roads to plow, any less fire departments, we still need a captain at the fire station, we still need snow plows on the road … if it's not been mandated by the province, it's great that we can take our time and really look at this. We get one kick at the can."

"We're all very passionate about our community," said Deputy Mayor Walt McKechnie, who was chairing the meeting. "We're all in favour of anything that keeps taxes stable and the services better, but it just seems to me that, in a lot of these amalgamations - let's use the word - I don't hear …a lot of good news on a lot of these amalgamations."

McKechnie pointed fingers to additional levels of government. "The bigger governments have got to quit spending money," he said, "it's that simple … this is all about money."

He raised concerns around future costs of amalgamation. While past attempts have proven successful in other communities, McKechnie was concerned about the impacts in regards to the current tax base.

"We haven't landed on any specific model yet," said Pine. "We're just in the information stage, and I think what we'll end up doing is provide some options to the County and the local communities to look at in terms of how do we organize ourselves."

In an effort to celebrate and preserve the identity of each municipality, EORN put forth a question to each sitting member of Dysart council, seeking a few words that describe their region. Common themes emerged around the landscape, heritage, volunteerism, community support, family focused, and four unique seasons.

EORN took notes from council members to take into consideration for future recommendations from the study.

Casey fills interim position

from page 1

mayor powers and duties as per the Municipal Act."

Wilbee went on to explain that the options to fill the role include appointing a current member of council to the position, appointing the candidate from the previous election who ran for mayor, or putting out an open call for applications for consideration by council. "Appointing a candidate from the previous election is not applicable, as the mayor was acclaimed," she confirmed.

That leaves the other two options: nominating an existing member, or appointing an interested member of the public. Between June 22 to 26, the vacancy will be advertised for those interested. On July 7, a special meeting will be held to appoint someone to the position, voted in by sitting members of council. At that point, if a current member of council steps into the role, the process will then be repeated to fill their vacancy.

While this answers the question of interim mayor, there was still a position available for the upcoming County council meetings. At the June 16 meeting, councillors were required to appoint a member of council to sit at the upper tier table, alongside Deputy Mayor Walt McKechnie. This member would be sitting as an alternate council representative until the position is filled in July. Nancy Wood-Roberts, Ward 2 Councillor, Pat Casey, Ward 1 Councillor, and Carm Sawyer, Ward 4 Councillor, put their names in as interested.

With three members expressing interest, McKechnie called for a vote to fill the role. While the room filled with some uncomfortable tension as the remaining members were asked to publicly voice their choice, Councillors Tammy Donaldson and Barry Boice both selected Casey. Carm Sawyer also voiced his support behind Casey.

Casey sat in on County council on June 17, and will be present at the regular meeting of council on June 24. The Dysart mayor's seat will be officially filled on July 7, 2026.

AH takes next steps towards Indigenous garden

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Algonquin Highlands has a commitment to fulfill. With the Dorset Pavilion and Community Park gifted by cottagers Don Tapscott C.M. and Ana Lopes, part of the agreement was creating an Indigenous Garden in collaboration with Indigenous stakeholders.

To assist with this process, Algonquin Highlands hired the services of Four Directions of Conservation Consulting to assist with the Indigenous engagement process.

The purpose of the engagement is to understand local Indigenous values, relationships, and protocols, plants for the garden that should be approached with great care or avoided, and any plant species that would better support a reciprocal relationship between land and the community.

Through their review, they found two treaties and land claim areas including the Algonquin Land Claim and Williams Treaty Settlement Area.

"Engagement is different from consultation," said Chris Card, Parks, Recreation, and Trails Manager for Algonquin Highlands.

Card says that this project is a perfect opportunity to build a relationship with Algonquin Highlands' neighbours.

"We are looking to reach out to engage those who we recognize as the original stewards of the land since time immemorial," said Card.

Visiting Algonquin Highlands council on Thursday, June 18, Card sought guidance from council regarding the garden and AH council's intent to use the park for demonstrations, education, whether it is symbolic in design, and what having an Indigenous garden means to those while aligning with AH's vision.

Councillor Lisa Barry says that the Indigenous garden is supposed to be a teaching place, a place for ceremony, and act as a healing environment.

"I will say I am a little bit disappointed that it has taken this long to get to this point given the commitment that we made to Mr. Tapscott and his wife," said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Liz Danielsen. "This is year three and it would appear that we are not going to be able to prepare a garden this year and that disappoints me."

Danielsen says that she is afraid that there is not enough time to celebrate the garden's opening before the next municipal election.

Card says that he intends to complete the garden in August or September of this year.

"There is nothing I see indicating at the moment that wouldn't allow us to meet our obligations this year," said Card.

He said that as a municipality, they have the obligation to reach out to all neighbouring Indigenous communities to ensure that Indigenous voices are heard and considered.

Some of the right holders of the Williams Treaty First Nations that will be contacted include Beausoleil First Nation, Chippewas of Georgina Island, Chippewas of Rama First Nation, Alderville First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, and Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation.

Card estimates a two to three week response period after the letters are sent. Site meetings are expected to take place in June or July.

Learning Anishinaabemowin at Haliburton Forest

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Tegan Legge and Caleb Musgrave spent some time last year planing manoomim/wild rice into select lakes at Haliburton Forest, in an effort to understand and respect the ecology of the Indigenous communities. /submitted

With National Indigenous Peoples Day this past Sunday, June 21, it's an important time to recognize the efforts made by local organizations when it comes to reconciliation and partnerships.

Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve has been diligently working on their Indigenous relations for the past few years. Led by Tegan Legge, the general manager for the tourism branch of the Forest, the team has made a number of changes around their site to ensure Indigenous presence is put on the forefront.

"The last few years we've been so honoured, and have loved hosting numerous groups of youth, elders, adults, students, friends and families from Curve Lake, Rama, Hiawatha and Alderville through various groups and programs, as well as the North Bay Friendship Centre, the Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre, and youth from The Native Canadian Centre of Toronto," she said. "We look forward to continued visits and building even stronger relationships and furthering our community outreach."

One of the major initiatives undertaken was the renovations of the Wolf Centre. The Ontario Signature Experience draws thousands of visitors each year to the facility, with an enclosure of wolves available for viewing, the majority of the site is dedicated to education and community outreach.

In the spring of this year, staff realized they needed to make some major changes. "We were gifted money to upgrade our displays, and are looking forward to working with our Indigenous friends and communities to create a space where guests feel free and welcome to hold ceremony, practice language, collect medicines," explained Legge. "We have started, but are looking to add more Anishinaabemowin to our display signage, tell the stories for the Seven Grandfather Teachings in a respectful way, create spaces for ceremony and add to our growing collection of wolf themed artwork, and tools for our Wolves in Anishinaabe Culture Display as well as our merchandise area."

While the timeline has been delayed to a spring 2027 installation, the progress is well underway, and the staff are dedicated to keeping the space open while the site is changing up. Currently, Legge is seeking support around a lead for Indigenous content. "This could be one person, perhaps a project with the Trent Indigenous Studies program, who visit the centre often, multiple people, etc." she explained. "This can take on many forms."

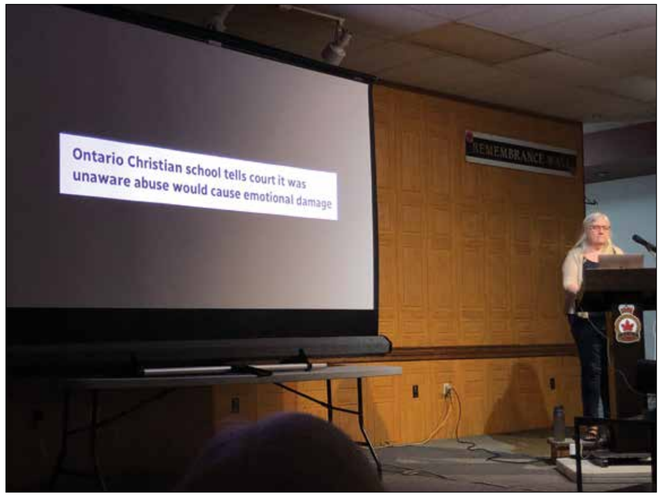
While the facility is making an effort to upgrade displays and information where they can, Legge shared that a small but noticeable impact is changing their language throughout the sites. "In addition to the Wolf Centre displays, as we upgrade or create new signage, we are adding Anishinaabemowin where we can," said Legge. "Most recently, adding a very fun geocache in our Sugar Bush, where Caleb crafted and donated an Ojiquigun, tapping wedge for Geocachers to find and learn a little about traditional ways of harvesting sap."

While their journey is far from over, Legge is proud of the progress they have made in recent years to work towards education and community partnerships. One of the ongoing projects the team has been working on is the introduction of manoomin/wild rice back into four different lakes within the Haliburton Forest property. Legge shared that out of six of the seeded locations, four have taken off, with three lakes now growing manoomin onsite.

"Next steps are to let these patches establish themselves and then assess from there if we add more rice seed or let them take care of themselves," said Legge. "It will take approximately five years to see the results, so we are patiently, but eagerly waiting on the results."

Legge encourages anyone with knowledge around Indigenous teachings to reach out to her directly at tlegge@haliburtonforest.com.

> *"The last few years we've been so honoured, and have loved hosting numerous groups of youth, elders, adults, students, friends and families ...*
>
> – Tegan Legge, Haliburton Forest



Keynote speaker and author Sarah Patrick speaks about her lived-experience in her award winning book *Binding Shame* at the season finale Speaker Series event held at the Haliburton Legion.

Right, local author and keynote speaker Sarah Patrick holds her award winning book ahead of her presentation for the Speaker Series.

Speaker Series' season finale a success

IVY KATZ
Journalist

The Haliburton Legion was bustling for the Telling Our Stories Speaker Series' season finale on Wednesday, June 10.

Featured keynote speaker and local award-winning author Sarah Patrick held the attention of the brimming room for nearly three hours, sharing her journey from youth, to being fully indoctrinated into a cult at the prestigious Grenville Christian College (GCC), a Christian boarding school in Brockville, Ontario.

Patrick's memoir, *Binding Shame: Life Inside a Cult of Obedience,* recently went into a second print run. Her book has been acknowledged by the International Cultic Studies Association, and awarded the Dianne Casoni International Award.

Patrick's memoir confronts the abuse she endured both as a youth and as an adult staff member. The author addresses the fact that she was, at times, complicit in abuse as a staff member of the toxic environment.

Grenville College's co-founders and staff were all members of the Community of Jesus, a Cape Cod sect known to be a cult; the connection was central in a successful 2006 class action lawsuit against the school.

Self-styled Mothers Cay Andersen and Judy Sorensen, the leaders of the Community of Jesus, were the spiritual leaders of the Grenville Community, and the school headmaster Charles Farnsworth, an Anglican priest reported to them.

The school announced its closure during a "Closing Celebration Weekend" on September 29-30, 2007.

In 2016, the Ontario Provincial Police announced they were reopening the investigation into emotional, physical and sexual abuses at the college.

Previously, the Anglican Diocese of Ontario, which was originally a defendant in the class action lawsuit, issued a statement saying that it had no contractual or de facto responsibility or control over the operations at GCC and later went on the record to reject calls to investigate misconduct complaints.

At the event, Patrick detailed her journey prior to GCC, recounting her mother's fragile mental health, her father's involvement with social issues, and the home-life dynamics that lead them to enroll her in the school at the age of 16.

"In the 70s, there were many 'tough love' reform-type schools which were for parents who were reeling from the drug and free-love culture at the time," explained Patrick, as she detailed the accessibility of these schools for lower-middle-class households.

Her family did not know GCC was a cult at the time, but Patrick noticed the school was strange from the day of registration, "there was complete silence," and it was explained that "Silence Discipline Days" were frequent occurrences at the school, used to punish wide-spread "sin," they also used this discipline as a way to pressure students to turn each other in or confess 'wrong-doing.'

GCC used a disciplinary tactic they called "light sessions," which lasted from an hour to a full day. Students were singled out and embarrassed in front of peers for minor offences and physically punished. Patrick recollected the extensive punishments she went through when the school found out she had a subscription to *Rolling Stone* magazine.

In her first year at the school, the author started to suspect something was amiss, and wrote letters to her sister, 14 years her senior, who was alarmed. Her sister attended a cult conference and concluded "it sounded cult-like" but her parents ignored the warnings, even after a private investigator explored the school, hired by another family, who contacted the other families within the school with the findings.

Near the end of her second year, Patrick had undergone intense discipline and humiliation; her parents threatened to withdraw her, but she chose to comply with the draconian rules rather than return to her turbulent and highly dysfunctional family. She opted to stay on at Grenville until graduation. Her indoctrination was complete when she was told by the priest that she had a call of God to live and teach at the college.

After graduation, the author tried to rebuild a 'normal' life and left the school for the Queen Street theatre scene in Toronto. Interested in theatre her whole life, it was, in some ways, a dream come true. Still, she found it very hard to integrate back into society. She struggled so much with life outside Grenville that she finally returned to teach at age 26. There she remained, as a teacher and vowed member of the Community of Jesus until she finally left in 2001 at age 41.

"It took me 22 years to be able to use the word cult," reflects Patrick on her final exit from the school after 16 years teaching. "I just could not believe what I was learning," as she recalled the headlines that started to hit the mainstream media about Grenville in September and October of 2007.

Class action lawsuits and trial

After a two-month trial, in February 2020, which took 15 years to get to the courts, former students won a class action lawsuit against the college, which was ordered to pay punitive damages of $10,000,000, reported the *Ottawa Citizen.*

The following year, in 2021, the CBC's *The Fifth Estate* aired a documentary on the school and abuse allegations, followed by another documentary in 2022 with new allegations.

"The children who were born at the school were the most damaged. At age 16, I was a boarding student and could leave on holidays. I was also a teenager and not a child, and was not as damaged as those who were born to the staff living there," said Patrick.

She is grateful that she was able to overcome the brain washing, pain, shame, and reconcile with former students, and build a meaningful and peaceful life. In the aftermath, she has found what true love actually feels like.

In her speech, the author illustrated the path to overcoming addiction, shame, and guilt, and to reconciling with oneself through accountability and humility. The audience was not rushing to leave, even as the Q and A drew to a close.

As for the inter-connected Community of Jesus, there is a lot of press coming out about the abuses there as authorities are investigating at the time of this report.

Patrick knows she is one of the lucky ones. She found "her soul-mate" and relocated to the Algonquin Highlands full-time in 2014 and has not looked back. She lives a meaningful, outdoorsy life with her husband, infused with joy, right here in the Highlands.

Hear Sarah Patrick on the podcast: *The Cult on the Cape* - episodes 1-5, wherever you get your podcasts. *Binding Shame* is available on Amazon, or reach out to the author for a signed copy via email: sarahpatrickmclean@gmail.com.

The new season for the Speaker Series kicks off September 2026 with guest Allen Pizzey "Through a Prism of Chaos and Contradictions: A Foreign Correspondent's View of the World". Email barrieinthehighlands@gmail.com to get on the Speaker Series email list. Annual season passes are available.

Passport inspires local historical travel

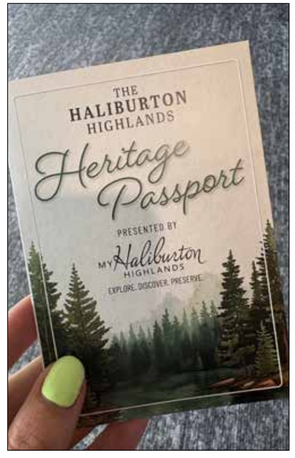
This summer, visitors and residents are invited to experience the Haliburton Highlands in a whole new way with the launch of the Haliburton Highlands Heritage Passport, an interactive tourism experience that encourages you to discover the county's museums, communities, and unique local stories.

The Heritage Passport invites participants to travel throughout the Highlands, visit participating museums, collect stamps, and uncover the rich history that has shaped the region. From pioneer settlements and historic schoolhouses to cultural centres and heritage collections, each stop offers a new opportunity to connect with the people, places, and stories that make the Haliburton Highlands a remarkable destination.

"We're delighted to share the history of our region with residents and visitors who are in the area this summer," said Haliburton County Warden Dave Burton. "The Heritage Passport is a great initiative that shines a spotlight on our wonderful museums and cultural centres through a collaborative partnership created by our tourism department."

Haliburton County tourism manager Angelica Ingram said the passport will provide a family friendly activity that is available to all this summer.

"Whether you're planning a family day trip, welcoming visiting friends and relatives, or looking for a new adventure close to home, the Heritage Passport offers a fun and meaningful way to explore the Highlands," said Ingram.



How it works

The Heritage Passport is available for free at any of the six museums located in Haliburton County.

Participants can:

- Visit participating museums and collect a Heritage Passport stamp at each location. (Please note you do not have to visit every museum to be eligible to win).
- Collect six stamps to receive a voucher for a Kawartha Dairy ice cream cone.
- Collect all eight stamps and submit their completed passport for a chance to win a prize.
- Drop off your completed passport in a ballot box at any of the six museums.

Passport stamps can be collected until August 31, 2026. Participating locations include:

- Dorset Heritage Museum
- Stanhope Heritage Museum
- Kidd Schoolhouse Museum
- Haliburton Highlands Museum
- Red Cross Outpost Museum
- Minden Hills Cultural Centre

Together, these attractions showcase the diverse history, culture, and heritage of the Highlands while providing opportunities to discover local businesses, restaurants, parks, and much more along the way.

The Heritage Passport is part of an ongoing effort to promote cultural tourism within the Haliburton Highlands and encourage visitors to spend more time exploring the region. By connecting museums through a shared visitor experience, the program highlights the important role heritage attractions play in creating memorable travel experiences and preserving local stories for future generations.

To learn more about the Haliburton Highlands Heritage Passport, visit www.myhaliburtonhighlands.com/heritage-passport.

Submitted

135 Maple Ave., Haliburton
Tel: (705) 457-1740 ext. 659
www.dysartetal.ca

Public Notice

The Municipality of Dysart will pause the acceptance of construction and demolition materials from the West Guilford waste disposal site for approximately 12 weeks while we complete some required work on site. Operating hours at the Haliburton waste disposal site will be 6 days per week, Tuesday to Sunday effective July 3rd. For updates please visit our website dysartetal.ca, our waste wizard app or one of our social media channels.

Municipality of Dysart et al
Tenders

The Municipality of Dysart et al invites vendors to submit for the following:

CLOSING JULY 7th, 2026

- **2026-PW-15 Sewer Flushing, Cleaning and CCTV Inspections**

Register at no cost, view all bid opportunities, and submit your bid online at:

dysartetal.bidsandtenders.ca
Printed or emailed submissions are not accepted

Review our "how-to" guide at:
dysartetal.ca/municipal-government/bids-and-tenders

Municipality of Dysart et al
705-457-1740 www.dysartetal.ca

Tourism talk

The newly formed Haliburton Stakeholder group, with representation from restaurants, accomodators, events, and experiences, welcomed fellow stakeholders to Sir Sam's Ski and Ride last Wednesday to share the details of their organization. With conversation around Hike Haliburton, upcoming events, and shared experiences in business, the organization is open to hearing about others in the tourism community. The next meeting is set for October, as tourism providers head into their busy summer months. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Haliburton County Folk Society announces upcoming artists

The Haliburton County Folk Society (HCFS) is excited to announce their artist line-up for the 2026-2027 Concert Series. The upcoming series features Juno Award winning and nominated artists, a range of genres, great original music and storytelling, and both well-established artists and up-and-comers who are just beginning to make their mark on the Canadian music scene.

Whether you're familiar with the names or not, you can be sure that you'll leave a fan of each performer, continuing the HCFS tradition of presenting the best of Canadian music right here in the Haliburton Highlands.

The series kicks off with Juno Award winning band Kobo Town. Formed and fronted by Drew Gonsalves who is originally from Trinidad, Kobo Town brings their distinct calypso and ska-inspired sound to the Haliburton Legion on Saturday, October 3, 2026. Their music is "an intoxicating blend of lilting calypsonian wit, dancehall reggae and trombone-heavy brass" (*Guardian*) and a "unique, transnational composite of rhythm, poetry and activist journalism."(*Exclaim!*), all delivered with unbounded energy and fun ... meaning: you'll want to get out of your seat and dance!

The second show is someone we're catching at the beginning of what promises to be a stellar career in music. Irish Millie is a singer, songwriter and fiddle player from Peterborough who takes the stage on Saturday, November 14 at the Highland Hills United Church. At just 19 years old, Irish is already making a name for herself. Her music is a high-energy blend of East Coast drive, bluegrass edge, and contemporary trad with a distinct Celtic pop rock energy. She is a seven-time Canadian Folk Music Award nominee, including two 2026 nominations for Young Performer of the Year, and Single of the Year.

Show number three is York Street Thought Process, who will kick off February Folk Fest on Saturday February 6, 2027 in the Club Room at the Haliburton Legion. York Street Thought Process is duo Jaron Camp and Rachael Frankruyter. They have captured the hearts of audiences across Canada with their playful approach to folk music, blending strong storytelling with improvisation. YSTP has performed at the Mariposa Folk Festival and Winnipeg Folk Festival, proving that they're on their way to establishing themselves in the folk scene. They caught the attention of HCFS at the 2025 Folk Music Ontario conference where they were part of the emerging artist program.

On Friday April 2, 2027, show number four at the Haliburton Legion, features the Slocan Ramblers. They are a Juno-nominated bluegrass band rooted in tradition, fearlessly creative with a bold, dynamic sound, who have become a leading light of today's acoustic music scene. The Slocans performed here in 2015, and we're excited to welcome them back with their energetic live show, impeccable musicianship and an uncanny ability to convert anyone within earshot into a lifelong fan.

The series wraps up with singer-songwriter Martin Kerr on Saturday, June 5, 2027 at Highland Hills United Church. Martin is a folk troubadour for the post-truth age. His outspoken and poetic takes blend urgent issues of the day with deeply personal narratives, in honest and nostalgic folk arrangements that invite you to sing along. He's garnered huge social media attention with his controversial rewrites of classic songs like *God Rest Ye Merry Billionaires*, *Away In Bomb Shelters*, and *What's Up America?* being adopted as anthems for justice and democracy. Expect a captivating live performance, peppered with Martin's dry British humour.

The Haliburton County Folk Society is super excited about all these shows! Series passes are available now at haliburtonfolk.com There is a limited number available so get yours now to guarantee your seat at these shows. Tickets for individual shows are also on the webstore. See you there!

Submitted

Yellow swallowtail by Tammy Nash

VALERIE KUINKA
Vanda Treiser General & Co-Artistic Director

RICHARD MARGISON
Co-Artistic Director

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HALIBURTON
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SEASON PASSES AVAILABLE!

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HighlandsOperaStudio.com | BOX OFFICE 1-855-455-5533

MASTERCLASS

RICHARD MARGISON MASTERCLASS
Tuesday, August 4th | 7:30-9:00pm
St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

OPERAS

LET'S MAKE OPERA! *ENCORE*
Back by popular demand! 4 NEW SHORT OPERAS based on stories from Haliburton County created and performed by local artists. (Community School opera creation project fully funded in 2025 by OTF).
Wednesday, August 19th | 7:30-9:30pm

SUOR ANGELICA + STAGED SCENES (TBD)
Featuring HOS Alum, soprano LAUREN MARGISON, as a special guest in Puccini's one act tragic masterpiece, this powerful work explores universal themes of maternal love, struggles with faith, and redemption in the face of great sorrow.
Combined with additional fully staged short scenes from various operas (TBD), join us for a powerful and engaging evening of opera!
Saturday, August 22nd | 7:30-9:30pm

DON PASQUALE - DONIZETTI
One of the zaniest and most loved of all Donizetti's operas, this three-act comic opera follows the fortunes of young Ernesto, recently disinherited by his wealthy, cranky uncle, Don Pasquale, for refusing an arranged marriage in favour of the penniless widow Norina. A hilarious sit-com for all ages. Find out if love wins in the end!
August 27th, 29th, 31st | 7:30-10:00pm
Pre-performance chat @6:30pm
August 30th | 2:00-4:30pm
All operas presented at Northern Lights Pavilion, Haliburton

HOMECOMING: GALA 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT
Sunday, August 16th | 2:00-4:15pm
Join HOS Alums who are some of Canada's best professional singers, along with celebrity guests, in a retrospective musical celebration featuring opera, musical theatre and more!

CONCERTS

OPERA TO BROADWAY
Thursday, August 6th | 7:30-9:00pm
Favourite solos and ensembles from opera and musical theatre featuring the HOS 2026 professional program participants.

POP GOES THE OPERA!
Thursday, August 13th | 7:30-9:00pm
Selections from opera, operetta, and musical theatre presented by the HOS 2026 professional program participants.
All concerts presented at St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN EVENTS:

#1: MUSIC ON THE WATER
Saturday, August 8th | 6:00-7:00pm
Fairfield Bay, Mountain Lake, Minden
WATER ACCESS ONLY

#2: WHY CHOOSE OPERA?
Tuesday, August 11th | 7:30-8:45pm
Check website for location

#3: CANADIAN COMPOSER'S WORKSHOP
Tuesday, August 25th | 7:30-8:45pm
St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

Fondation Azrieli | VANDA TREISER INITIATIVES | Delta Bingo + Gaming | Canada

HSF 2026 Live Theatre!
Highlands Summer Festival

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES – THE MUSICAL™

JUNE 29TH - JULY 8TH

Ella Gooley
Anne Shirley

Kirsten Sixt
Marilla Cuthbert

Ed Canning
Matthew Cuthbert

Thomas Austin-Ward
Gilbert Blythe

Lauren McInnes
Rachel Lynde

Fia Marziali
Diana Barry

Evelyn Mardus
Josie Pye

Annabelle Borgdorff
Mrs. MacPherson/ Miss Muriel Stacy

Catherine Wheeler
Mrs. Sloane/ Mrs. Blewett

Renée Griffith
Mrs. Pye

Wayne Black
Minister

Max Ward
Earl/Station Manager

Curtis Eastmure
Cecil

Meg Mardus
Mrs. Spencer/ Lucilla

Christine Jonas-Simpson
Mrs. Barry

Róisín Hogan
Prissy Andrews

Ruby Mansfield
Ruby Gillis

Penelope Irvine
Tillie Boulter

Brooke Gooley
Gertie Pye

Ruairí Byrne
Moody Sloane

Luna Marziali
Geraldine Buote

Rowyn Foster
Tammy Sloane

Aiofe Hogan
Missy Andrews

Chris Chumbley
Mr. Phillips

Director & Choreographer
Douglas Walker

Music Director
Melissa Stephens

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Scan to purchase tickets online or phone 705-457-9933

Pet paradise

The new Pet Valu location on Hops Drive officially opened for business on Friday, June 19. The downtown location is no longer open, and with more space and a built-in dog wash, the owners are thrilled with their new location. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Police seek community information

Haliburton Highlands OPP are investigating a fatality in the area of Stanhope Airport Road between All Seasons Court and Pine Needle Trail (Maple Lake and Green Lake) in Algonquin Highlands. The incident took place today between 1 - 2 p.m.

There is no risk to public safety. Police are asking anyone with information or camera footage in this area to contact the Haliburton Highlands OPP at 1-888-310-1122, reference occurrence number E260863348. There will be an increased police presence in the area while police conduct the investigation.

Submitted

Life jackets save lives. No excuses, no exceptions.

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is urging everyone heading out on the water to make one life-saving choice: wear your life jacket, every time, every ride.

Despite calm conditions and proximity to shore, many boating-related drownings occur when people least expect danger. Most of these tragedies happen in small vessels, like canoes and kayaks, and are preventable.

In 2025, nearly 80 per cent of all boating fatalities investigated by the OPP involved individuals who were not wearing a personal flotation device (PFD). Adult males accounted for almost 90 per cent of all boating fatalities on OPP patrolled waters. According to the Drowning Prevention Research Centre of Canada, 35 per cent of water-related fatalities in Ontario are linked to swimming, while another 13 per cent are attributed to walking, running, or playing near water, accounting for nearly half of all drownings when combined.

Young children, weak swimmers, and non-swimmers should always wear a life jacket when near water, even in shallow areas. Supervision and proactive lifesaving decisions, like wearing a life jacket, are key to avoiding tragedy.

What you can do:

- Always wear a properly fitted, Transport Canada (TC) approved life jacket. Modern life jackets are lightweight, comfortable, and designed to save lives. Don't just bring it, wear it.
- Ensure there is a properly sized life jacket for every person on board.
- Keep all required safety equipment easily accessible and ready to use.
- Set the example, especially for children and new boaters.
- Check weather and water conditions before heading out.
- Every year the OPP continues to share this important safety message across the province reminding the public that wearing a TC-approved PFD is one of the simplest and most effective ways to prevent water-related tragedies.

Make it a habit. Make it home

Submitted

Public Notice of Council Vacancy and Special Meeting

Due to the unfortunate passing of Mayor Murray Fearrey on May 28th, 2026, Dysart et al Council declared the Mayor's seat vacant at a Special Council Meeting held on June 16th, 2026.

Dysart et al Council has chosen to fill this vacancy by appointing a current member of Council to the Mayor's role, until the end of the current Council term on November 14, 2026.

A special meeting to appoint a new Mayor will be held on July 7th, 2026, at 9:00am in the Dysart Council Chambers.

Any current Council member who wishes to be nominated to fill the vacant position of Mayor is required to notify the Clerk in writing of their consent to nomination at least five (5) business days prior to the July 7th, 2026, Special Meeting.

Tamara Wilbee, CAO/Clerk Phone: (705)457-1740 X-624 Email: twilbee@dysartetal.ca

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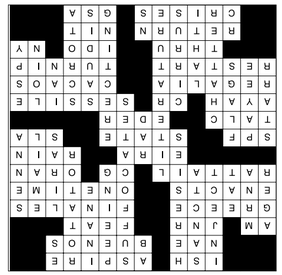

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Municipality of Dysart et al

In the Heart of the Haliburton Highlands

FORM 6
SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER
Municipal Act, 2001
Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on July 22, 2026, at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton.

Description of Lands:
1. Roll No. 46 24 010 000 45100 0000; 1701 - 1741 WIGAMOG RD., HALIBURTON; PIN 39252-0140 (LT); PT LT 2-3 CON 6 DYSART PT 1, 2, 19R8110; T/W H243561 & H127169; T/W H263271; DYSART ET AL; File No. 24-38
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $841,000
Minimum tender amount: $110,337.04

2. Roll No. 46 24 011 000 20200 0000; 1025 MEADOWVIEW RD., HALIBURTON; PIN 39172-0071 (LT); PT LT 14 CON 7 DYSART AS IN H86046; S/T H32659; DYSART ET AL; File No. 25-06
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $293,000
Minimum tender amount: $20,176.08

3. Roll No. 46 24 013 000 13800 0000; 1068 HURRICANE LAKE DR., HALIBURTON; PIN 39185-0031 (LT); PT LT 6 CON 13 DYSART PT 3 19R904 EXCEPT PT 1 19R1162; T/W H113633 EXCEPT THE EASEMENT THEREIN RE PT 2 19R1162; DYSART ET AL; File No. 25-20
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $128,000
Minimum tender amount: $13,907.90

4. Roll No. 46 24 040 000 35300 0000; DYSART ET AL; PIN 39141-0342 (LT); PT LT 8 CON 3 GUILFORD AS IN H127005; UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE; File No. 25-35
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $82,000
Minimum tender amount: $11,854.00

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the "Act"), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/ tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale.

Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province's Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

TAKE NOTICE: Where a refund is claimed by a qualifying first-time Homebuyer under the Land Transfer Tax Act, the Municipality requires the purchaser to retain legal counsel to complete the transfer.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser. A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, contact:

Crystal Bliedung
Tax Collector
The Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart,
Dudley, Harcourt, Guilford, Harburn, Bruton, Havelock, Eyre and Clyde
135 Maple Avenue
P.O. Box 389
Haliburton ON K0M 1S0
(705) 457-1740 Ext 639
cbliedung@dysartetal.ca www.dysartetal.ca

Municipality of Dysart et al

135 Maple Ave., P.O. Box 389,
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
Telephone: (705) 457-1740
Email: info@dysartetal.ca
Website: www.dysartetal.ca

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

- **DATE:** Thursday, July 9th, 2026
- **TIME:** 11:00 am.
- **LOCATION:** The Committee of Adjustment meeting will be held in the Council Chambers and electronically via Zoom.
  The meeting will be live streamed to YouTube.

APPLICATIONS:

1. D13-MV-2024-013 Ellis

   - The following variance is requested to permit a water closet to be located in a garage a lot located in the WR4 zone:

     a) A variance to Section 3.1(a)(iii) to permit a water closet to be located in a private garage.

   - Location: Part Lot 28, Concession 8, in the Geographic Township of Guilford, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.
     Roll No. 041-000-44400
     Civic Address: 1634 Preachers Lane

2. D13-MV-2026-004 Miemiec and Yuen

   - The following variances are requested to permit an increase to the maximum lot coverage and maximum shoreland lot coverage, permit an additional accessory building, legalize the width of a stairway and a gazebo within the minimum water setback area on a property in the WR4 zone:

     a) An increase to Section 3.1(b)(ii) to permit a stairway within a minimum setback area to have a maximum width of 2.1 metres (6.8 feet) as opposed to the permitted maximum of 1.5 metres (4.9 feet).

     b) An increase to Section 3.1(b)(iii) to permit a deck and gazebo located within a minimum water setback area to have a total combined gross floor area of 22 square metres (236.8 square feet) as opposed to the permitted maximum of 20 square metres (215.3 square feet).

     c) An increase to Section 3.1(b)(iii)(c) to permit a gazebo within the minimum water setback to have a maximum ground floor area of 11.6 square metres (124.9 square feet) as opposed to the permitted maximum of 10 square metres (107.6 square feet).

     d) An increase to Section 3.1(b)(iii)(d) to permit a gazebo within the minimum water setback to have a maximum structure height of 4.5 metres (14.8 feet) as opposed to the permitted maximum of 3.5 metres (11.5 feet).

     e) An increase to Section 5.2 to permit a maximum lot coverage of 16% as opposed to the permitted maximum of 15%.

     f) An increase to Section 5.2 to permit a maximum shoreland lot coverage of 16% as opposed to the permitted maximum of 15%.

     g) An increase to Section 5.2 to permit 3 accessory buildings (plus 1 one-storey building less than 10 square metres in area) as opposed to the permitted maximum of 2 (plus 1 one-storey building less than 10 square metres in area).

   - Location: Part Lot 28, Concession 4, Plan 19R-4160, Part 1, in the Geographic Township of Dysart, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.
     Roll No. 010-000-31300
     Civic Address: 1134 Paradise Cove Road

FOR MORE INFORMATION about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Secretary-Treasurer at ameijer@dysartetal.ca.

ANY PERSON is entitled to attend the hearing to express his/her views about these applications or may be represented by an agent for that purpose. If you do not attend the hearing the Committee may proceed in your absence, and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings. The Committee will accept oral and written submissions.

A COPY OF THE DECISION will be sent to the applicant, the agent and to each person who has filed with the Secretary-Treasurer a written request for notice of the decision.

FURTHER INFORMATION: including specific information about the zone provisions affected by each application, and electronic meeting process is available from the Planning and Land Information Department at the Municipal Office by appointment only (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) or by phoning 705-457-1740.

Adam Meijer
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment

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Call 705-457-1037
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Deadline Friday at 12 pm

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Bird House Haven. Unique custom quality bird houses and feeders built by John Robinson. Can also do minor wood work related repairs. Visit our booth every Tuesday at the Haliburton Farmers Market or drop by the shop at 1039 Kioti Lane off Marigold road, West Guilford. Call **705-457-8516**

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YARD/GARAGE SALES

Garage sale. **Sat June 27. 8:00-1:00** Fabrics, household & kitchen items, cotton knits, 80s polyester, linings, satin, velour, velvets, blends, etc. 1167 Woods Rd. Haliburton. Rain or shine

HELP WANTED

Housekeeper needed one day per week, flexible schedule, experience required. $25/hr Cash. Location: 10 min north of Minden. Call **905-640-8750**

Handyman for outdoor landscape maintenance needed, one to two days per week. No equipment required. $25/hrs Cash. Between Minden and Haliburton. Call **647-321-5050**

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Wanted: scrap cars and trucks. Cash paid. Please call **705-286-3758** or cell **249-332-1212**

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The successful candidate will possess a DZ licence and three (3) years of related experience. The hourly rate is $36.32 - $42.49.

Applications
Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **July 1, 2026.**

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Haliburton County Public Library Requires:

One (1) Programming and Outreach Coordinator
This role is responsible for planning, facilitating, and supporting in-person, virtual, and outreach programs and events for all age groups across all library branch locations.

The successful candidate will possess post-secondary education in library studies, education, or a related field with at least three (3) years of related experience, preferably in a public library setting. The hourly rate is $33.42 - $39.10.

Applications
Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for detailed postings and job descriptions. Forward your resume to info@haliburtonlibrary.ca no later than **July 1, 2026.**

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.
In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and *Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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al@currychevrolet.ca

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Deadline Friday at 12 pm

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CLEANING / MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

Staanworth Non-Profit Housing Corporation is seeking a reliable and self-motivated **Cleaning/Maintenance Assistant** to join our team in Minden. This is currently a part-time position (30 hours per week), with the potential to evolve into a full-time position.

Primary duties include maintaining cleanliness of all buildings, common areas, laundry rooms, washrooms, etc. Secondary duties include minor maintenance repairs, painting, groundskeeping, garbage disposal, and assisting the Maintenance Supervisor with apartment turnovers.

Successful applicants will have experience in cleaning, the ability to work independently and a sound knowledge of employment safety regulations. WHMIS certification desired.
A valid drivers license and abstract plus a Vulnerable Sector Police Check will be required.

This position includes employer paid benefits (medical, dental, vision, life insurance and OMERS Pension). Wage: $20.00 per hour. Start date: July 20, 2026.

Please submit your resume no later than 4:30 p.m. - July 10, 2026 to:
Staanworth Non-Profit Housing Corporation, 44 Parkside Street, Minden, ON K0M 2K0
or email: manager@staanworth.ca
We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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OBITUARIES

William "Bill" Picard
(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

It is with profound sadness that the family of William (Bill) Jerome Picard announce his passing. He went home to be with the Lord on June 17th, 2026 at the age of 90. Bill always had a passion for creating. Whether with a Dremel, a welder, wood burner, paintbrush or hammer. He made many beautiful things that brought so much joy to his family and friends. He spent much of his time outdoors and enjoyed fishing, hunting, boating, camping and cruising on his dune buggies. Bill is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Nancy and his children, Jacqueline, Jay and Bob (Julia). He is fondly remembered by grandchildren, Kathleen (Kyle), Heather (Michael), Morgan, Abbey (Blaine), Megg and Jake and by his great grandchild Bennett. Bill's memory will live on in his family who will miss him very much but are so deeply thankful for the impact he had on their lives.

Visitation & Memorial Service

Friends are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Thursday evening, June 25, 2026 from 6-8 p.m. A Memorial Service will follow in the Chapel on Friday morning, June 26, 2026 at 11 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior). As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

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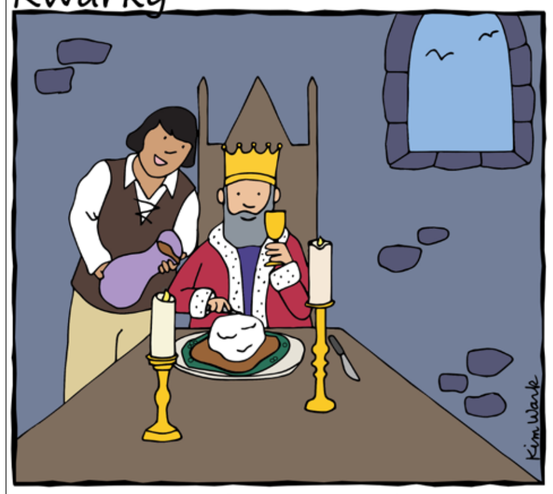

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SUDOKU

	1							
		5	6				9	
					8	1	7	2
		7	1					
			8	6				3
3				5		2		
1	3							
6	9			2	7		8	

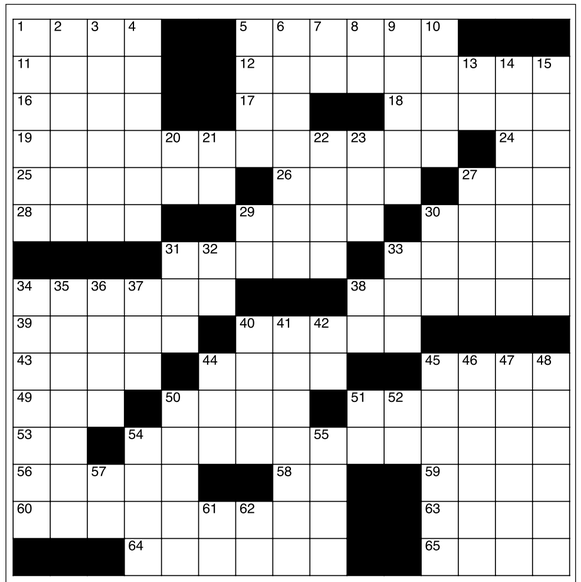
Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



CLUES ACROSS
1. Nocturnal S. American rodent
5. Requesting
11. Give temporarily
12. Excitedness
16. Armed Forces branch
17. Actor Harris
18. Middle Eastern capital
19. Air hostesses
24. Partner to "Pa"
25. Percussion instrument
26. Popular computers
27. Reduce light
28. Asian mountain range
29. Every one of two or more
30. Absence of difficulty
31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage
33. Whittles
34. Impact
38. Serviceman
39. A French river
40. Prehistoric people
43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
44. __ Clapton, musician
45. Ancient Greek sophist
49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
50. Singer Hansard
51. A way to disentangle
53. Atomic #93
54. Manifesting approval
56. Indigo bush
58. Former AL MVP Vaughn
59. Off-Broadway theater award
60. Fencers
63. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
64. Relating to passerine birds
65. Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN
1. Colorless fluid
2. Of a main artery
3. Photographer's tool
4. Blues Traveler hit "But __"
5. Grew older
6. Not the leader
7. __ Lang (country singer)
8. A driver's license is one
9. Nests of pheasants
10. Wildebeests
13. Equal to one quintillion bytes
14. Japanese three-stringed lute
15. Type of cat
20. It cools your home
21. The ancient Egyptian sun god
22. Pouches
23. German trigraph
27. Form of Persian
29. Measurement unit
30. Body part
31. Bridge building degree
32. Indicates position
33. Political action committee
34. Snack food
35. Front part of a quadruped
36. Locate
37. Pitching statistic
38. __, myself and I
40. City in Utah
41. They play in the trenches
42. "Can't Touch This" rapper __ Hammer
44. Type of tree
45. Performers
46. Slang for mistake
47. More open
48. Most slick
50. Needles
51. University of Dayton
52. Atomic #11
54. Large fish of the mackerel family
55. Not any
57. __ and behold
61. Popular sports highlight show (abbr.)
62. "The Great Lakes State"

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County sorts through who does what

The Haliburton County "Who does What" Committee submitted its preliminary recommendations to county council at the June 18 meeting. The document outlines which level of government should shoulder the responsibilities in such areas as emergency services, parks and recreation, planning, social services, roads, tax collection and waste management.

The following are highlights from the recommendations:

The county would assume responsibility in such areas as ambulance services, policing, library services, economic development, homes for the aged, social services and family benefits administration and septic inspections.

Lower tier governments would be responsible for by-law enforcement, non-profit housing, sidewalks, street lighting, sewer systems, collection of taxes, transit, waste management, water systems and airports, among others.

A number of areas have been identified where the two levels of government would share responsibility. For example, in the case of fire departments, the county would be in charge of communications and services, while the municipalities would be responsible for suppression/rescue, fire prevention programs and medical. Another area where both levels would divide responsibilities is in planning. The county would be accountable for the official plan, subdivision approvals and consents, while the lower tier would approve minor variances, conduct pit and quarry reviews, oversee site plan controls and enforce zoning by-laws.

Parks and recreation would see most of the responsibility shouldered by the municipalities. Such things as arenas/community centres, ball parks and fields, boat launches, playgrounds, trailer parks and community parks would fall under the jurisdiction of the lower tier governments. The county would be responsible only for corridor parks.

The county would continue to assume control of county roads, including those which have recently been transferred

(more on page 2)

It was a night of celebration at Archie Stouffer Elementary School as students from the grade eight class received their graduation certificates and special awards. Emily Brandon was recognized for a number of achievements and is seen her receiving the Haliburton County Women's Teachers Association award for leadership from teacher Chris Lynd. For more details and photos, please turn to page 25 and 28.

Farmhouse demolition placed 'on hold' while council considers options

The Stevenson Farm has been given a stay of execution, for the time being. The Haliburton County Board of Education Management Committee agreed last Tuesday to defer any decision on the removal of the house until its September meeting.

Carolyn Coburn, representing the Minden County Town Museum, told the group that a professor from Trent University has indicated the farm could be of value to his project in the area.

Professor John Wadland, the lead professor in the Bioregionalism Project, has expressed a strong interest in the Stevenson Farm. He has suggested the building might be used as a 'base camp' from which the students could carry out research on the Haliburton County area.

The Stevenson farmhouse is on property owned by the Haliburton County Board of Education. The building is located immediately behind Archie Stouffer School on the edge of the hill overlooking the school's playground.

Anson, Hindon and Minden Reeve Jeanne Anthon and Deputy Reeve Jerry Rome were also at the meeting. The council representatives told the committee they are reluctant to accept responsibility for the farm. The council is willing however, to enter into a partnership of some description with Trent University if the school is interested in developing the proposal.

Council felt that more time was needed in order to consider the various options. The representatives affirmed they do not want to compete with Sir Sanford Fleming College.

One option presented would be to lease the house for a year with the option to buy it. This is council's preferred direction at this point, however it is still willing to consider other alternatives.

Unfortunately council had little time to prepare a proper presentation for the board's committee meeting. At the time of the meeting, representatives from council were not empowered to enter into any formal arrangement but were simply seeking additional time to work out the details of an agreement.

The group was asking that the board not proceed with the demolition of the farmhouse to give the council and the Museum time to determine their best options.

In addition to the potential use by the Bioregionalism course, the Minden Museum Committee has also expressed an interest in the structure.

Concerns were raised about possible vandalism that might take place while decisions were being made and who would take on the expenses incurred by the buildings, for example electricity and insurance fees.

The Management Committee recommended that any decision concerning the disposition of the Stevenson Farm be

(more on page 4)

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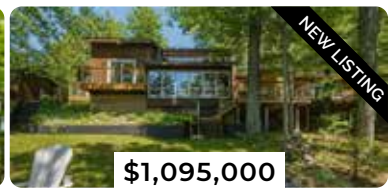

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$849,000
BED 3 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12953212

BARNUM LAKE

$825,000
BED 3 | BATH 1+1 | MLS #X13467094

KUSHOG LAKE

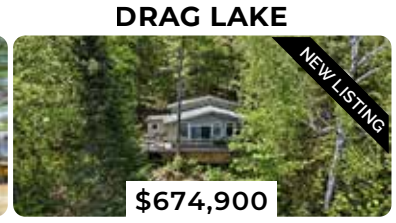
$730,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13467324

LONG LAKE

$699,900
BED 6 | BATH 1+1 | MLS #X13034386

KENNISIS RIVER

$695,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13135162

DRAG LAKE


$674,900
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS X13421336

REYNOLDS ROAD

$650,000
BED 3 | BATH 2+1 | MLS #X13185368

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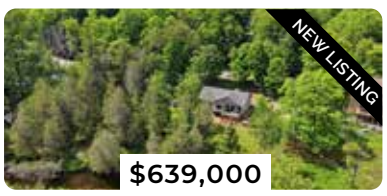
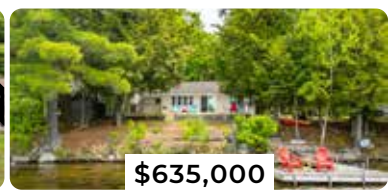


$639,000
BED 2+1 | BATH 3 | MLS #X13454954

SOUTH PORTAGE LAKE

$635,000
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13420872

KOSHLONG LAKE RD

$579,000
3.48 ACRES | MLS #X13444274

WEST SETTLEMENT RD

$555,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13163216

ALLEN LAKE

$519,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13215436

SILVER BEACH

$499,995
BED 2 | BATH 2 | MLS #X13113762

KUSHOG LAKE, HWY 35

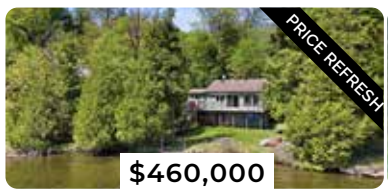
$499,900
BED 3 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12604142

LITTLE STRAGGLE LAKE

$495,000
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13229592

MONROCK LAKE

$475,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13177210

LITTLE STRAGGLE LAKE


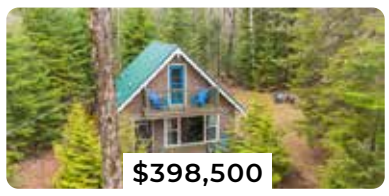
$460,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13222622

GULL RIVER

$449,500
BED 2+1 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13147762

COUNTY ROAD 503

$430,000
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13111224

GLAMOR LAKE ROAD

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